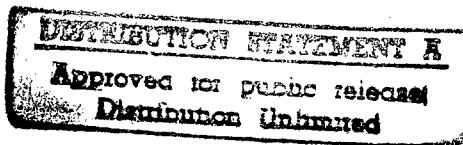




JPRS Report



Near East & South Asia

IRAN

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Near East & South Asia

IRAN

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CONTENTS

6 September 1991

POLITICAL

International Affairs

U.S. Troop Departure From Northern Iraq Viewed [SALAM 16 Jul]	1
Iraq Viewed as U.S. Test of 'World Domination' [Tehran Radio]	1
Paper Says U.S. in 'Quandary' Over Iraqi Regime [IRNA]	1
Deportation of Iranians From Japan Continues [SALAM 6 Jul]	2
Nigerian Moves Toward Israeli Ties Condemned [SALAM 8 Aug]	2
Commentary Discusses Bakhtiar Assassination [JAHAN-E ESLAM 10 Aug]	3
Paper on Need for New Order 'Practical Strategy' [SALAM 6 Aug]	3

Regional Affairs

Arabs Criticized for Accepting Talks With Israel [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 3 Aug]	4
Karrubi Meets Islamic Jihad Leader in Tehran [Tehran Radio]	4
Turkish Anti-Kurd Operation Condemned [Voice of Iranian Kordestan]	5
Strategic Research Meeting Held With Pakistan [Tehran Radio]	5
Velayati Accepts Invitation To Visit Algeria [Tehran Radio]	5
Memorandum on Visas Signed With USSR [Tehran Radio]	5
Train Service to Moscow Expanding [London KEYHAN 4 Jul]	6
Baku To Be Linked to Tehran by Airplane [London KEYHAN 4 Jul]	6
Daily on Need for Expanded Saudi Ties [TEHRAN TIMES 7 Aug]	6
Minister Aqazadeh on Help for Kuwait [IRNA]	7

Internal Affairs

Rafsanjani Speaks on War With Iraq, POWs [IRNA]	7
Cabinet Meets, Discusses Soviet Events [Tehran Radio]	8
Nuri Addresses Seminar on Refugee Affairs [Tehran Radio]	8
Karrubi on Role of Press in Promoting Unity [ABRAR 15 Jul]	8
Karrubi Urges Unity, Solidarity [Tehran Radio]	9
Musavi-Tabrizi Expects Western Media 'Lies' [IRNA]	9
Ahmad Khomeyni Notes Agreement Among Officials [Tehran Radio]	9
Paper Discusses Islamic Notions of Freedom [IRNA]	10

ECONOMIC

IRI Becoming Dubayy's Largest Trading Partner [London KEYHAN 18 Jul]	11
Oil Minister on Note of Understanding With ROK [Tehran Radio]	11
Guinean Minister, Mahluji Sign Mining Protocol [IRNA]	11
Nurbakhsh Returns From PRC Visit; Agreements Signed [Tehran Radio]	12
Commercial Trade With PRC Expanding [London KEYHAN 1 Aug]	12
Extent of Purchases From Germany Disclosed [London KEYHAN 18 Jul]	12
German Siemens To Build Power Plant in Tehran [London KEYHAN 18 Jul]	12
IRI Buying Gas Turbines From UK [London KEYHAN 11 Jul]	13
Italy Assisting in Gas Exploration Project [London KEYHAN 25 Jul]	13
Economic Memorandum Signed With Pakistan [Tehran Radio]	13
NPC Awards Indian Company Training Project [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 3 Aug]	14
Government To Establish Export Promotion Bank [IRNA]	14
Regime Attempting To Establish Single Rate of Exchange [London KEYHAN 11 Jul]	14
Central Bank Official on Rates, Debts, Other Issues [KEYHAN 4 Jul]	15
Allocation of \$3 Billion for Importing Essential Goods [London KEYHAN 11 Jul]	17
Billions of Dollars of Spare Parts To Be Imported [London KEYHAN 18 Jul]	17

Minister Reports Shipping, Transport Activity <i>[Tehran Radio]</i>	17
IRSC To Expand Persian Gulf Shipping Network <i>[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 3 Aug]</i>	18
Funds Needed To Complete Petrochemical Complex <i>[IRNA]</i>	18
New Metallurgy Plant Commissioned <i>[Tehran Radio]</i>	18
Tehran on Need To Expedite Reconstruction <i>[Tehran Radio]</i>	18
Pars Aluminum Company Increases Production <i>[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 29 Apr]</i>	19
Fisheries Revenue Tops \$72 Million <i>[London KEYHAN 11 Jul]</i>	19
Hamadan Power Station Half Completed <i>[Tehran TV]</i>	19
Hamadan Power Plant To Receive \$600 Million <i>[IRNA]</i>	19
Rash of Fires Reported in Tehran Bazaar	19
Fire at Fabric Warehouse <i>[IRNA]</i>	19
Workshop Burned <i>[IRNA]</i>	20
Clothing Shops Damaged <i>[IRNA]</i>	20

MILITARY

Italy Refuses Sale of Fighter Helicopters <i>[London KEYHAN 25 Jul]</i>	21
Czechoslovakia Refuses To Sell Tanks <i>[London KEYHAN 1 Aug]</i>	21
Poland Reportedly To Sell Tanks to Country <i>[London KEYHAN 1 Aug]</i>	21

SOCIAL

Enforcement Deputies Named for Fars Province <i>[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 24 Apr]</i>	23
Taft, Gachsaran, Maragheh Commanders Designated <i>[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 27 Apr]</i>	23
New Law Enforcement Commanders Appointed <i>[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 27 Apr]</i>	24
Tabas Airport Becomes Operational <i>[ABRAR 27 Apr]</i>	24
Kish Airport, Ports Designated Exit Boundary <i>[ETTELA'AT 2 Jul]</i>	25
Sociocultural Statistics Published <i>[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 24 Apr]</i>	25
Tehran Population Growth Reaches Critical Level <i>[ABRAR 25 Apr]</i>	25
Nationwide Census To Begin 11 Sep <i>[IRNA]</i>	28
Results of Tribal Census Announced <i>[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 25 Apr]</i>	28
Ten-Digit Codes To Replace Birth Certificate Numbers <i>[London KEYHAN 18 Jul]</i>	29
Broadcasting Complex Inaugurated in Semnan <i>[Tehran Radio]</i>	29
Waters of Law Dam Subsiding <i>[London KEYHAN 6 Jun]</i>	29
Takab, Sa'indezh Districts Become Townships <i>[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 24 Apr]</i>	30
Lack of Drinking Water Bring Unrest <i>[London KEYHAN 25 Jul]</i>	30
Government Week Marked With Special Services <i>[IRNA]</i>	30
Habibi Cited on Summer, Winter Time Dates <i>[Tehran Radio]</i>	30
Blood Stocks Pronounced Disease-Free <i>[IRNA]</i>	30

International Affairs

U.S. Troop Departure From Northern Iraq Viewed

NC2507191491 Tehran SALAM in Persian
16 Jul 91 p 10

[Political Department commentary: "Regarding the Departure of U.S. Forces from Northern Iraq"]

[Excerpt] Foreign forces stationed in northern Iraq completed their departure from this region yesterday afternoon. A few thousand Kurds blocked the border in northern Iraq near Zakho, protesting that the U.S. force were leaving half of the allied forces' commitments unfinished. They asked the troops to stay in the region.

One U.S. commander tried to answer these protests by saying: Don't worry, we are nearby. He was obviously referring to the allies' rapid reaction force which is to be stationed at a nearby Turkish base. No details, however, are available regarding this force or its location.

It is being said that the forces have set up camp near the town of Silopi in Turkey, a few kilometers outside Iraq, and that Incirlik airbase in Turkey will be used as the force's base. [passage omitted]

Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani, who arrived in Baghdad at the end of last week for meetings with Saddam, have not reached any conclusive outcome in their negotiations. Talabani returned to Kurdistan on Sunday, but Mas'ud Barzani, who is still optimistic that he will reach some sort of agreement with Saddam prior to the Iraqi national day on 17 July, is still in Baghdad. According to observers, Barzani has repeatedly stated that an agreement with Baghdad is at hand. Talabani, on the other hand, has maintained silence in this regard. The Kurds are insisting on two points: First, the status of Karkuk; and second, free elections and the elimination of the role of the Ba'th Party. Baghdad has not shown any flexibility whatsoever on these issues.

It appears that despite the U.S. and its allies' willingness to bomb Baghdad's military targets and establish the rapid reaction force in the north, the Iraqi Kurds continue to be a scapegoat for the bargaining and adventurism of Bush and Saddam.

The Kurdish issue is raised whenever it suits the powers' needs. When their political objectives change, the issue is once again relegated to secondary coverage in the news, despite the Kurds' hardships, tribulations, and homelessness.

Iraq Viewed as U.S. Test of 'World Domination'

LD1708154291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0956 GMT
16 Aug 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The United Nations Security Council yesterday issued three consecutive resolutions about Iraq. Two resolutions, 705 and 706, are on the sale of oil and how oil revenues are used. Resolution 707 condemns Iraq for its

failure to comply with its previous undertakings to eliminate weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq has criticized the resolution which suggests that 30 percent of the oil revenues from the limited sale of Iraqi oil should be put in a special account supervised by the secretary-general in order to pay war reparations. Iraq said the resolutions blatantly violate Iraqi sovereignty. Iraq's UN envoy, before the votes were taken, asked that his government be allowed to reconstruct the country's vital economic centers during the next four years and that payment of war reparations be postponed until 1995. But, it was clear that no attention would be paid to that request because of the United States Government's influence on the UN Security Council.

It seems Iraq protested resolutions 705 and 706 because of the decision on how oil revenues should be spent, an issue the Security Council classified in those resolutions. It is convenient for Iraq that the Security Council will let it sell its oil. But, the criticism from Baghdad seems to be more concerned with having no freedom in spending the revenues.

The Baghdad regime needs to consolidate the foundations of its government. Therefore, it seems natural for it to use its foreign income within a framework that guarantees the survival of the present leaders.

AL-QADISIYAH, the official magazine of the Iraqi Defense Ministry, refers in its latest issue to the special attention paid to the reconstruction of the Iraqi army by Saddam. This shows the mentality of the Baghdad rulers and their pivotal planning to allocate the insignificant foreign currency acquired as oil revenues.

On the other hand, according to some political experts, Iraq is currently used by America and other world military and economic powers as a testing ground for new theories on world domination.

Some experts believe that the adoption of resolution 706, although apparently helpful to the Iraqi people, in fact relieves the ruling regime of the pressures caused by the people's discontent—which may lead to political change—thereby facilitating its survival.

But, the mechanism of that survival has been drawn in such a way that it does not allow the military power of the ruling system to increase to a level that could withstand systematic foreign interference.

Paper Says U.S. in 'Quandary' Over Iraqi Regime

LD1708105791 Tehran IRNA in English 0733 GMT
17 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA—The English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES Saturday commented on the new move by the U.N. Security Council in adopting a resolution which authorizes the sale of up to drs. 1.6 billion worth of Iraq's oil for [the] purchase of foodstuff, medicine and other essential needs of the population. In its editorial titled "U.S. Quandary in Baghdad" the paper noted that

two points in the resolution are worth special considerations. "The United Nations and Security Council's treatment of the Iraqi regime as an independent government is unparalleled in history, and is in fact more suitable to a mandatory state," wrote the daily. Such an approach is not based on any international law, and derives principally from the foreign policies of influential governments, the United States in particular.

"In fact the Americans are in a quandary about what to do with the regime in Baghdad. On the one hand they are unwilling to accord it the full status of an independent government, and on the other hand they prefer to let the 'sick' regime continue to remain in power until they have found a suitable alternative," said the paper. It referred to the opposition of Shiite Muslims and Kurds (forming about 60 and 20 percent of Iraq's population respectively), and argued that under the status quo what guarantee is available that the regime will use oil revenues for the purchase of essentials and their equal distribution among the public?

"It is highly important for the United Nations and its secretary-general to excercise close supervision over the distribution of foodstuff and medicine," the daily noted adding that the existing popular institutions in Iraq would be the most efficient channels to excercise such a supervision.

Deportation of Iranians From Japan Continues

91AS1217D Tehran SALAM in Persian 6 Jul 91 p 3

[Text] Eleven passengers from Islamic Airlines Flight 800, which landed in Tokyo on Thursday, were returned to Tehran on the same flight because they were unable to obtain an entry visa.

Also, on this flight, 95 other Iranians whose legal period of residence in Japan had ended were returned to Iran.

It is noteworthy that in the past two months, 1,742 Iranian nationals were forced to return to the country.

It is also worthy of note that employment with a tourist visa in Japan is illegal, and violators will be prosecuted.

Nigerian Moves Toward Israeli Ties Condemned

*NC1908122891 Tehran SALAM in Persian
8 Aug 91 pp 12, 2*

[Commentary by SALAM's foreign news department]

[Text] The Nigerian external affairs minister has paid a visit to Israel to discuss, in his words, the establishment of diplomatic relations and prospects for technological, economic, and scientific cooperation.

During his visit to occupied Palestine, Nigerian External Affairs Minister Major General Ike Nwachukwu, met with the Zionist regime's prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, as well as its foreign minister, David Levi, and its agriculture minister, Rafa'el Eytan.

Nwachukwu is the highest-ranking Nigerian official to visit Israel since relations between the two countries were severed in 1973.

In view of the current international climate and the conditions under which Islam now finds itself, this visit has several noteworthy features:

1. Nigeria has the largest Muslim population of any African country, but the long sway of British colonialism meant that after independence, real power in the country was placed in the hands of Western-controlled Christians. Despite their larger numbers, Muslims have been placed under the hegemony of a Christian government which is dependent on the West. Some [Muslims] may have been given positions in this government, but they had little influence and had to toe the Christian line. Since independence, Nigeria's domestic and foreign policies have sought to weaken the position of the Muslims and strengthen that of the Christians, who received full Western moral and material support for these efforts.

The Nigerian Government was forced to sever relations with the Zionist regime after the 1973 Arab-Israeli war because of the Nigerian Muslims' support for the Arabs, and for a long time it kept silent about any resumption of these relations because it feared the Muslims' reaction. Nigerian officials remained wary even after al-Sadat's visit to Israel, the signing of the Camp David pact, and the establishment of relations between Egypt and Israel, although information disclosed within the country and abroad indicated that thousands of Israeli technical and agricultural experts were working there and the two governments were maintaining secret ties.

2. Nigeria held observer status in the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] from the time the organization was founded until 1985, when it was accepted as a full member. News of Nigeria's membership in the ICO was roundly condemned by Christians, but widely welcomed by Muslims, as this was seen as a way Nigeria could cooperate with other Islamic countries and participate in the organization's decisionmaking.

3. At a time when efforts are under way to convene the U.S.-led Middle East peace conference, when the Arab countries are moving toward attending this conference by adopting compromising stances, and when the Islamic foreign ministers were meeting in Turkey, the West believed it was necessary to break the deadlock in establishing relations with Israel, so that Islamic countries would be able to begin moving in this direction. Because of the nature of its government, Nigeria, despite its Muslim majority, is the first to break this bottleneck on the West's orders. Nigeria's action sends a message to other ICO members, and therefore this organization needs to respond by suspending it. If the ICO fails to react, there is nothing to stop other members from acting similarly, which is exactly the message the West is trying to send.

4. The West no doubt wants to know how Muslims will react to the establishment of relations with Israel and has chosen Nigeria as a test case in view of its government's well-known nature. This move will clearly meet with strong opposition from Nigerian Muslims, and any move by the government to suppress this opposition will only expand the growing Islamic movement in Nigeria, which is

already quite strong. The West will see how such steps not only do not intimidate Muslims, but instead intensify their hatred for Islam's enemies many times over. The silence of the Nigerian press on the matter is a clear sign of the Nigerian Government's fear of the Muslims' reaction.

5. The Islamic Republic of Iran must respond to the Nigerian Government's anti-Islamic action and officially express the Muslim Iranian nation's opposition to it. Silence and indifference on our part could well result in similar moves by other countries. We should not forget that during the time of the esteemed imam, may he rest in peace, the government severed relations with a number of African regimes that had established relations with Israel. If we do not now oppose present and future attempts by Islamic countries to do the same thing, this will naturally be seen by the people as a deviation from the imam's line.

Commentary Discusses Bakhtiar Assassination
NC1808101391 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian
10 Aug 91 p 8

[Commentary by J. Hamedi]

[Text] The world learned of the assassination of Shapur Bakhtiar, the corrupt monarchical regime's last prime minister, two days after it had taken place, when it was disseminated by news agencies. The following three theories have been put forward in response to the questions raised by this news:

1. The assassination was a settling of accounts among the various opposition factions in view of Bakhtiar's recent position opposing extremist groups on the one hand and the monarchists on the other. According to this theory, he was killed by other opposition groups so that his death could be used for propaganda against the Islamic Republic and to create better conditions to exploit this atmosphere in international circles.

2. The assassination was carried out either by groups opposed to the Islamic Republic or by pro-Western intelligence services and the Zionist regime in an effort to prevent any improvement in Iran's relations with European countries, "especially France," and to raise doubts in international circles about the emergence of a more flexible and pragmatic line in the Islamic Republic's foreign policy. This is the view expressed by circles close to the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry and tacitly endorsed in the official statement released by the Iranian Embassy in Paris.

3. The assassination was carried out by elements close to the Islamic Republic of Iran or by those who support it in an effort to punish and terrorize the system's enemies and indicates that there has been no change in the Islamic Republic's behavior and the government's support for international terrorism. This view, which is mostly put forward by opposition groups and extremist circles close to the West and international Zionism, seeks to lower the Islamic Republic's international and regional standing and to keep it from fully emerging from the political isolation imposed on it by world arrogance.

What is clear is that Shapur Bakhtiar's activities as an opposition figure abroad did not pose any possible danger to the Islamic Republic of Iran (at least under current conditions) and that there was and is no logical reason why the Islamic Republic of Iran would have supported his assassination. The theories that it was a settling of internal accounts for political exploitation or an effort to remove a "burnt out" and useless political pawn in a way that could tarnish the Islamic Republic of Iran's prestige and supply ammunition for propaganda are, however, entirely logical and supported by facts.

The counterrevolutionary activists abroad are worried about the uncertain future they face as a result of their own internal differences and the extent to which the West's information media may play up these differences. It is well known that the West's information media will change its approach to certain groups if it believes that they are no longer useful and that its objectives are better served by moving away from them. This tactic has been applied to all political developments in the Third World and needs to be given special attention in this case. Bakhtiar was punished for his actions against the deprived and the oppressed. We do not wish to discuss just which individual or group inflicted God's punishment on him, but rather to stress that this should be a lesson for others in the way they respond to the unchanging divine traditions and help them determine their future behavior.

The Islamic Republic's foreign policy officials must take care that the clarification of the system's logical position on terrorism does not lead to automatic condemnations of the assassination of evil people who were hostile toward the Muslim nation and wounded the Hezbollah ummah. What is clear is that the elimination of people like Shapur Bakhtiar, for whatever reasons, pleases the suffering ummah and the honored families of the martyrs and of the combatants, who hope that all those who deserve God's punishment receive it and that the Islamic Revolution achieves all its ideals and objectives. It is crucial that the policies adopted by the system's officials do not offend the public's sentiments.

Paper on Need for New Order 'Practical Strategy'
NC1608200091 Tehran SALAM in Persian
6 Aug 91 pp 12, 3

[Commentary by 'Ali Mohebbi: "A Glance at the Idea of the New World Order—the Islamic Republic of Iran's Stance"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted]

An Assessment of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Approach to the New Order:

No doubt small countries and even larger ones are unhappy that the world is moving toward Americanization, and every effort to break this trend requires strength and prowess. [passage omitted]

Against this backdrop, the world of Islam and the Islamic Republic of Iran in particular enjoy special importance. It is clear that the world of Islam will never be happy with the

current situation, considering its proximity to Western Europe and Western societies, the elimination of the Soviet threat to Europe, and the freeing of resources and large forces earlier allocated for combating the Eastern Bloc threat.

Regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign and economic policies and national development, the country has consistently had a special place in the policies of negative and positive balances and the games of conflict between the great powers. Naturally, this lever is losing its effectiveness each day, as a result of which we are facing more restrictions. Meanwhile, the Third World and the Islamic Republic of Iran do not have adequate military and economic weapons or technology to create a balance of power with the West, or to halt the U.S. advance. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Republic of Iran in such circumstances has no recourse but to formulate its own practical strategy to defend its interests and values and save itself from being absorbed into the system desired by the United States.

Regional Affairs

Arabs Criticized for Accepting Talks With Israel

91AS1381C Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 3 Aug 91 p 2

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Arab governments are following a retrogressive trend. One day even the most reactionary Arab state did not dare recognize Israel let alone sit at the negotiation table with it. When Anwar Sadat signed the Camp David accord with Israel he received his due punishment by the revolutionary Muslims of Egypt for his disgraceful and humiliating move.

The "Arab Steadfastness Front" grouped those governments which refused to make any compromise with the usurper Zionist regime. All Syrian boasted of was its being in the "frontline of the struggle against Israel." But today unfortunately all the unpopular Arab regimes are in the process of accepting a second Camp David.

The Arab heads of state are submitting to the abasement of negotiations with the aggressor Zionist regime under conditions that experience already shows that Tel Aviv is not even faithful to the agreement it has concluded with Egypt. It is still after realising the old dream of the "Nile to the Euphrates" through its aggressions, including repeated invasions against Lebanon.

The Arab governments are accepting the humility of talks with the "fabricated and usurper" Israeli regime also under circumstances that the spirit of awareness and justice-seeking has been bolstered in the Muslim nations of the region.

Inspired by the Islamic revolution of Iran, the people of Palestine as well as the Arab and non-Arab Muslims are ready more than ever to sacrifice themselves in the way of eradication of the "rootless" Israeli regime and for liberation

of the first 'qibla' of Muslims. So what has suddenly happened to the Arab regimes, and particularly to the so-called progressive regime in Syria that they have announced readiness to accept such an historical humiliation?

The reason was very well explained by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i in his recent remarks against the Zionist entity. "If the Arab regimes brought their nations to the scene and respected their feelings, determination and enormous power they would not now be compelled to show weakness and abjectness before the usurper Zionist regime," Ayatollah Khamene'i said on Wednesday.

The anti-people's regime of Iraq opened the way for the aggressor American and multinational forces to enter the region. The Persian Gulf littoral Arab states which did not rely on their people became hosts to the "American wolves" to protect them. What the United States asked these governments in return was recognition of Israel and their individual and collective negotiations with the Zionist regime.

But as the leader of the Islamic Republic pointed out in his remarks, "the decline of the superpowers was a living experience in history." He said any negotiations by the Arabs with the usurper Zionist regime would destabilize the Arab governments and increase the region's instability.

In any way, if the heads of the Arab states do not come to their senses, they should not expect a fate better than that of Sadat. Their Arab and Islamic zeal compels the Palestinians, the Arabs and other Muslims to fight on until the eradication of the cancerous tumor of Israel which is playing with their honor and prestige no matter even if the arrogant America is backing the Zionists.

Karrubi Meets Islamic Jihad Leader in Tehran

LD1908161991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Dr. Fathi Shaqaqi, leader of the Islamic Jihad Organization of Palestine, and his entourage, met Majlis Speaker Karrubi in Tehran this morning and discussed the latest developments in Palestine and the struggles of the intifadah.

At the meeting, Dr. Fathi Shaqaqi stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran is the only haven for the Muslim people of Palestine. He said: The aim of the Muslim people of Palestine is the realization of the goals of Imam Khomeini, may his soul be sanctified, about Palestine and Muslims.

Then Mr. Karrubi referred to the present situation and the developments in the region. He said: The Islamic movement of the people of Palestine, the intifadah, shines despite political conspiracies. He said he hoped that the Islamic uprising of the people of Palestine would further spread. He added: Supporting the people of Palestine and their struggles against the Zionists is one of the major goals of the Islamic revolution.

Turkish Anti-Kurd Operation Condemned

*NC1508151991 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian
Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 13 Aug 91*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] Dear listeners: The onslaught by the Turkish Armed Forces on Iraqi Kurdistan is neither unprecedented nor unexpected in view of the nature and conduct of the Turkish Government. Such incursions have taken place in the past few years on the pretext of suppressing armed Kurdish combatants, specifically the Workers Party of Kurdistan (PKK). However, the recent extensive Turkish attacks on Iraqi territory merits our attention in view of the current regional circumstances.

It is clear that these attacks were not carried out without U.S. approval and consent because Iraqi airspace is currently under U.S. control, especially north of latitude 36 degrees. This means that to a certain extent the United States is a partner in the Turkish Government's objectives. [passage omitted]

Anyone with even a slight knowledge of the actual regional situation knows that the explanation for the bestial and savage attacks by the Turkish Armed Forces is not based in reality. Turkey said it attacked a PKK training camp with 400-500 members inside Iraqi Kurdistan when in fact there is no camp in the district. In the region's current circumstances, no camp with more than 60-70 individuals can possibly exist. In addition, everyone knows that the victims of such attacks are ordinary defenseless people, not armed combatants who would have been prepared to repel any attack and would easily have been able to evacuate the area.

A look at the killed, wounded, and refugees from the attacks clearly supports this view. It is nothing new for the Turkish Government to highlight the PKK's activities, and it has consistently exaggerated the number of the PKK combatants and the extent and importance of their operations.

The government exaggerates its reporting on the PKK to justify the ferocity of its actions and its fascist conduct, including in the recent attacks. The savage Turkish operations in Iraqi Kurdistan reaffirm the Turkish Government's brutality, a fact brought home a few months ago when journalists from all over the world reported the plight of Iraqi Kurds who fled to Turkey following the Gulf war. Turksih actions were aimed at intimidating Kurds inside Turkey and at warning Iraqi Kurds not to harbor any illusions about an autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan as a haven for Turkish Kurds.

Obviously, Turkey's allies, spearheaded by the United States and including the clerical Iranian regime, and all enemies of the rights and freedoms of the Kurdish people support Turkey's actions in this area. However, there is no doubt that such fascist actions can in no way impede the course of history. The deprived and tyrannized peoples of the world, including the Kurdish people, will move with greater speed toward liberation and the vindication of their legitimate rights with unfailing strength and with the

support of the humanitarian and freedom-seeking people of the world. Eventually these forces will defeat those who violate their human rights.

In addition to being inhumane, the bestial air and land attacks by the Turkish Armed Forces on Iraqi Kurdistan soil are a violation of international norms and regulations. These attacks are not a sign of strength; on the contrary, they indicate fear, dread, and a total disregard for the freedom-seeking struggle of the Kurdish people inside Turkish territory.

Regardless of whether or not we agree with the PKK's political program or modus operandi, we must vehemently condemn the Turkish Government's actions, and we are confident that all freedom-seekers, international organizations, progressive or democratic will agree with us.

The political organizations of Iraqi Kurdistan, in particular, and the people in Iraqi Kurdistan in general are obviously obliged to resist this overt aggression with all their might. Now is the time for them to demonstrate that they are blessed with the morale and strength to protect their homeland and gains before any aggression.

Strategic Research Meeting Held With Pakistan

*LD1708200291 Terhan Voice of the Islamic Republic of
Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT
17 Aug 91*

[Text] The first joint session of the leaders of the Strategic Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Pakistan's Strategic Research Center of Islamabad took place at the latter facility this morning. It was attended by the two centers' officials. Following a preamble on the functions of the two countries' research centers, international and regional issues were discussed.

Proposals on bilateral cooperation, convening a joint seminar, training, and the implementation of research and study projects were offered. The two sides reached agreement on the generalities of the proposals.

Velayati Accepts Invitation To Visit Algeria

*NC2608070091 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of
Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT
26 Aug 91*

[Text] The Algerian ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran met and talked with Foreign Minister Velayati yesterday. Pointing to the sincere relations between the two countries, the Algerian ambassador handed an official invitation from Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi to our foreign minister to visit Algeria. Our foreign minister accepted the invitation and expressed hopes that the visit will take place in the near future.

Memorandum on Visas Signed With USSR

*LD0708215991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of
Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT
7 Aug 91*

[Text] Iran and the Soviet Union signed a memorandum of understanding to speed up the issuance of visas for the two

countries' nationals as well as facilitating consular cooperations. The memorandum of understanding was signed by the Iranian and Soviet deputy foreign affairs ministers in charge of consular affairs in Moscow on Wednesday.

Train Service to Moscow Expanding

91AS1098b London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Jul 91 p 4

[Text] The popularity of the Tehran-Moscow train service has prompted the Islamic Republic Railroad Organization to add a number of new passenger trains to this line. The Public Relations Office of the Islamic Republic Railroad Organization recently announced that the passenger trains from Tehran to Moscow, which formerly went to Moscow only once a week on Thursday, in view of the demand for trips to Moscow, will henceforth run on a new schedule, leaving for Moscow on Saturdays and Thursdays. The Public Relations Office of the Islamic Republic Railroad Organization issued a schedule informing the public of the new times for train runs from Tehran to Moscow.

According to this announcement, trains will leave Tehran for Moscow every Saturday and Thursday at 1610 hours, and the respective trains will arrive in Moscow on Wednesdays and Mondays at 0545 hours. These trains will leave Moscow at 1900 hours on Wednesdays and Saturdays each week Moscow time and will arrive in Tehran on Sundays and Wednesdays each week at 1225 hours. The Public Relations Office of the Islamic Republic Railroad Organization also announced that Trains leaving for Moscow on Saturday will make the trip with Iranian cars, and the ones leaving on Thursday will go and return with Russian cars.

Baku To Be Linked to Tehran by Airplane

91AS1098c London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Jul 91 p 4

[Text] To expand its commercial and cultural relations with the Islamic Republic, the Soviet Republic of Azarbayjan intends to link Baku, the capital of that Republic, by air with Tehran. In addition to flying between Tehran and Baku, the aircraft in question will also land in Tabriz, in order to transport passengers from place to place as well as to carry freight and commercial goods. Hasan Hasanov, prime minister of the Soviet Republic of Azarbayjan, who recently went to Tehran to meet with officials of the Islamic Republic, told news correspondents that his country has great interest in expanding commercial relations, creating overland freight companies, and cooperating in the textile and tourist industries with the Foundation for Oppressed People and War Veterans. The prime minister of the Soviet Republic of Azarbayjan also announced that in the last few years this republic has been able to expand its commercial and cultural relations with the Province of Azarbayjan. He said that with the availability of extensive resources for cooperation in the future, the economic and cultural ties between Tehran and Baku will be stronger.

According to a report from Tehran, during his stay of several days in Iran, Hasan Hasanov, prime minister of the Soviet Republic of Azarbayjan, also met with Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the Islamic Republic's minister of economic and financial affairs. During this meeting, also attended by

the Soviet ambassador in Tehran, views were exchanged and various issues were discussed pertaining to the establishment and expansion of economic cooperation between the Islamic regime and the Kremlin.

Daily on Need for Expanded Saudi Ties

NC1608125091 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
7 Aug 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Iran-Saudi Ties as Best as Can Be Hoped For"]

[Text] Expanding Saudi-Iran ties received a boost with the choice of Dr. Mohammad 'Ali Hadi as ambassador from Iran to Saudi Arabia. Ties have been upgraded from charge d'affaires to ambassadorial level, informed sources say. And the appointment becomes all the more significant on account of the fact that Dr. Hadi is one of the political personalities in Iran known to be close to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

It is our hope that these developments will augur well and that Saudi-Iran ties will move at more than an even keel and develop into a very cordial and close relationship. This is no doubt important because there can be no true stability in the region without the states in the Persian Gulf coming together and thinking alike on issue that are vital to the region and its politics.

Another development of significance is the recent announcement in Istanbul, the venue for [the] Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers meeting that Iran plus the seven [as published] PGCC [Persian Gulf Cooperation Council] countries Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman will hold a meeting at foreign ministers' level in October in Doha, the capital of Qatar.

Relations between Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran have been expanding more after the annual Hajj pilgrimage was successfully performed earlier this year in Mecca. Although the joint Irano-Saudi economic commission is to be held within the next few months, the political relations between the two countries are more important than economic ties. If we consider the main issue in economic relations to be that of oil, still it should be noted that the political dimensions outweigh the economic ones.

What Iran and Saudi Arabia need today is to cooperate with each other about the region's future without any foreign pressures. There will be no security in the Persian Gulf if Tehran-Riyadh ties for any reason deteriorate, a thing which we hope truly will not happen.

Considering the importance of these relations, [the] presence of powerful ambassadors in the two capitals can play an important role in the expansion of relations.

Tehran mutually expects Riyadh to dispatch as its next ambassador to Iran a powerful personality with close ties to high-ranking Saudi officials, so that the envoy can take decisions and quickly transfer our viewpoints to his government. It is an accepted fact in today's diplomatic world that ambassadors themselves play a vital and important role in improving or worsening relations between two governments.

Minister Aqazadeh on Help for Kuwait

*LD2707165791 Tehran IRNA in English 1413 GMT
27 Jul 91*

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—The volume of trade between Iran and South Korea is to rise to dollars two billion this year, Petroleum Minister Gholam-Reza Aqazadeh said here Saturday. Aqazadeh, back from a visit to Seoul, told reporters that last year trade exchanges between the two countries totalled dollars 1.2 billion with the balance swinging in Iran's favor by dollars 200 to 300 million. He said Iran's oil exports to South Korea increased from 140,000 to 170,000 barrels per day last year making the Islamic Republic South Korea's chief oil supplier.

"Tehran-Seoul commercial relations are based on cash system and such ties are now growing appropriately," said Aqazadeh who led a delegation to the 4th Iran-South Korea joint economic commission in Seoul. On new grounds for cooperation between the two countries, he said fruitful talks were held with South Korean officials on equipping the Tehran subway with locomotives, wagons, rail tracks, power station and related machinery. "Two South Korean companies manufacturing subway equipment are to send a team to Tehran for talks on export of technology and manufacture of part of the equipment in Iran," he said.

Aqazadeh added the South Korean delegation would visit a machinemaking company in Arak, Central Province, to get acquainted with its capability. The negotiations on subway equipment were held by Tehran Mayor Gholam-Hoseyn Karbaschi and the managing-director of the capital's subway company, Aqazadeh said. He said the Tehran mayor signed a letter of understanding with South Korean officials on construction of buildings in Iran. "According to the agreement, if talks turn out positive, South Korea will help construct one million square meters of buildings in Iran," the minister said.

On setting up a petrochemical plant in Tabriz with South Korean collaboration, he disclosed: "A dollars 100 million contract is to be signed next week with a South Korean company which would implement part of the project."

On the contribution of the private sector to petrochemical projects, Aqazadeh said the Petroleum Ministry has so far received about 100 proposals in this regard of which some are suitable. "After negotiations bear results, steps will be taken towards handing this sector to private companies," he said.

On extinguishing Kuwaiti oil wells set ablaze by Iraqi troops, Aqazadeh said negotiations were held with Kuwaiti officials over the past few months resulting in a contract between the two countries. According to the one year contract, he said an Iranian team is to be deployed in Kuwait's al-Burqan region where some 400 oil wells are on fire. A ship packed with 40 million dollars worth of necessary equipment has set sail for Kuwait and the operations are to start next week, he added. Iran has also disclosed its readiness to reconstruct Kuwait's war-damaged oil refineries, jetties and pipelines, he said.

The petroleum minister said although Iran has offered to reconstruct Kuwait's al-Ahmadi oil refinery within five months in exchange for oil products instead of money, it has yet to receive an affirmative reply.

On the sale of oil to the U.S., Aqazadeh said since the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979, the Islamic Republic has sold its crude to all world countries except Israel and South Africa. He said Iran sold dollars three billion worth of crude oil to American companies in the year ending March 1988, and after Washington put an embargo on Iranian crude in the same year, oil was offered to U.S. firms indirectly.

On the drilling of oil wells in the Caspian Sea, Aqazadeh said the Petroleum Ministry was pursuing long term plans in this regard. He said the first well drilled in that region holds good potential. On the volume of investments to be made by the Petroleum Ministry during the five-year development plan launched last year, he said according to a decision approved by parliament, the Ministry was supposed to take necessary measures to this end by increasing the prices of oil products. "But when the price hike trend slowed down, the Petroleum Ministry had to borrow from the Central Bank," Aqazadeh said, adding that his ministry would borrow Rls 500 to 700 billion from the Central Bank this calendar year.

Internal Affairs

Rafsanjani Speaks on War With Iraq, POWs
*LD1708193291 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT
17 Aug 91*

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA—All Iranian demands regarding the imposed war are being materialized including the identification of Iraq as aggressor, repatriation of remaining Iranian POWs and receiving war reparations, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here today.

"Today, the Islamic Republic's innocence and righteousness has been substantiated," he told a group of former prisoners of war on the first anniversary of their return home from Iraqi captivity.

However, Rafsanjani added, the Iranian officials and people feel bitter over the continued captivity of some Iranian war prisoners by Iraq. He expressed hope that the rest of [the] POWs would be freed and repatriated to their homeland.

He said the enemy whose real face has been unveiled for the whole world to see, caused severe damage to Iraq's [as received] independence, territorial integrity, economy, army and other potentials through adoption of wrong policies.

According to Iranian estimates, the Islamic Republic suffered dlrs [dollars] 1,000 billion in direct and indirect losses as a result of the Iraqi-imposed war.

Since Iraq's acceptance of all Iranian conditions for ceasefire including withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Iranian territory they had occupied, the two countries exchanged

38,000 POWs each. Still many Iranian POWs and those missing in action are believed to be held by Iraq.

Cabinet Meets, Discusses Soviet Events

NC2208073991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Excerpt] The cabinet met yesterday afternoon. After studying reports about the recent developments in the Soviet Union, and because the USSR is Iran's neighbor and events there have regional and world repercussions, the cabinet decided to make arrangements for a careful study of the situation there. [passage omitted]

During yesterday afternoon's cabinet meeting, a bill granting the Iranian Government permission to join the convention on the formation of a world organization for intellectual copyright and to join the amended agreement on supporting industrial, commercial, and agricultural ownership—better known as the Paris Convention—was approved. The cabinet also approved a bill on an agreed commercial tariffs system among Islamic countries, which has been drafted to strengthen the economic structure of Islamic countries and to unite Islamic countries in commerce.

During yesterday's meeting, a briefing by Mr. Kamali, minister of labor and social affairs, on the workers programs during Government Week and their readiness to work one hour extra received the cabinet's praise.

Nuri Addresses Seminar on Refugee Affairs

LD1308163991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 13 Aug 91

[By unidentified Central News Unit correspondent in Mashhad]

[Text] The seminar of nationwide officials in charge of departments responsible for the affairs of foreign nationals and refugees, began its work today in Mashhad with an address by Interior Minister Nuri. Our correspondent reports:

In Mashhad this morning Mr. Nuri, the interior minister, remarked that the Islamic Republic of Iran has accepted refugees despite the fact that it has a lot of problems to overcome. He then described the reasons for accepting refugees and asked that international forums take note of this matter. He added: A country whose leader instructs that refugees should be supported and whose president advises the same and where the Islamic Majles also draws up and ratifies the budget for this purpose, should, evidently, be attended to and should be assisted.

The interior minister emphasized the need for extensive coordination among foreign countries and international organizations concerning refugee affairs and described as very good the cooperation of the [UN] High Commission for Refugee Affairs [HCRA] in solving the problems of Afghan and Iraqi refugees. He called this assistance to be continued.

Continuing the seminar, Mr. Omar Bashid the supervisor of the UN HCRA mission office, in the course of remarks said: Today, Iran has not only given refuge to the largest number of the world's refugees, but it has also assisted these refugees more than others and borne most of the financial burden.

Before the remarks made by Interior Minister Nuri, Mr. Jannati, governor general of Khorasan, also, in the course of remarks, referred to the situation of foreign nationals and refugees residing in Khorasan and said: Khorasan, in view of the long border it shares with Afghanistan, has also given refuge to the largest number of Afghan refugees. In the opening session of this seminar Mr. Hoseyni, managing director of the Interior Ministry's department in charge of the affairs of foreign nationals and refugees, described the objectives behind staging the seminar and some of the existing ambiguities surrounding refugee affairs. This seminar will continue for three days and during this time, in addition to speeches to be delivered by eight speakers, three committees will be set up under the titles: political and cultural; administrative-financial, international relations and guest towns [mehman-shahr-ha] committee and legal and social committee and will follow up the aims of the seminar. [sentence as received]

Karrubi on Role of Press in Promoting Unity

NC2707064991 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 15 Jul 91 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts] At a meeting with members of the editorial staff at the newspaper KAR VA KARGAR [Work and the worker], Islamic Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi stressed the media's important mission of providing accurate and objective information to the public, noting: This is crucial in an Islamic society that upholds certain values. In fact, your newspaper has an even greater responsibility here than others, as you serve the selfless toilers.

The Islamic Majles speaker added: KAR VA KARGAR must serve the oppressed and deprived, inform officials of their problems, and demand that the entire government work to solve them. In other words, your newspaper must serve the interests of the deprived. As our late imam (peace be upon him) once said: "A single hair from the head of a hut dweller is worth more to me than the whole body of a palace dweller." [passage omitted]

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi went on to stress: Newspapers also have a responsibility to maintain complete objectivity and to separate news from analysis.

Noting that certain newspapers blur the distinction between the two and thus do not fulfill their real mission, he pointed out: Some newspapers do not print responses that contradict their own views. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi emphasized the need to maintain unity among all strata, adding: At the same time that they express their opinions and contribute to public debate, newspapers should also work to eliminate areas of discord. Of course, this does not mean that everyone should merely listen to what is said

and not speak up for fear that this could generate weakness and discord. In other words, unity does not mean that one must only listen to what others say.

Karrubi Urges Unity, Solidarity

LD1808114291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] We begin this news program with a report by our correspondent from the Islamic Consultative Majles concerning Mr. Karrubi's speech in today's open session of the Majles.

[Correspondent] In his speech, Mr. Karrubi stressed the need to implement the recent guidelines of his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution. He remarked: The advice and guidelines of the honorable leader must be noted by all the organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran. All officials must constantly keep this speech in their minds and lay the grounds for the implementation of those guidelines in their work places.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles spoke of the leader's emphasis on the need to take note of the deprived, the oppressed, and the poorer classes who carry the heavy burden of the revolution, and expressed his hope that the cabinet, organizations and all authorities act in the direction of providing for the toiling and deprived classes.

Mr. Karrubi further referred to abstention from ostentation and luxuries, which was also endorsed by the late imam and the honorable leader. He added: A simple life on the part of the system's officials and authorities will continue to lead to stronger bonds with the people. The revolution is in great danger if we do not take necessary note of this issue. He called on all the organizations of the country to refrain from ceremonies and luxuries.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles proposed: A group should be appointed to follow and assess the ways of realizing and implementing the guidelines of the honorable leader. He continued: Such a group chosen by the leader or the president will clarify instances of wasting the national treasury and uncalled for ostentation. It will put a stop to such cases.

Continuing his speech, Mr. Karrubi pointed to the leader's underscoring of the need to maintain unity, and the existence of common views between the factions, and of surface differences. He said: Various individuals, factions, and groups must take care not to give a profound image of surface differences in their utterances and behavior. This will be misused by the enemies of the revolution. The head of the legislative branch continued: In order to put the mind of the friends of the revolution at rest, and to disappoint the enemies of the revolution, I say that all groups, factions, and societies stand shoulder-to-shoulder to protect the revolution, to follow the leader, and to safeguard the blood of the martyrs. They defend the system and the values of Islamic system with unity and solidarity. Mr. Karrubi stressed: The government, the Majles, and the Council of Guardians must lay the grounds for ever-increasing unity and eliminate causes of division.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles also noted the need to confront the cultural invasion by the enemies of the revolution. He stressed: It is the duty of our cultural centers to stand up to the cultural invasion of the enemies—which is a deep and complicated plot—with unity and solidarity.

Musavi-Tabrizi Expects Western Media 'Lies'

LD1708105191 Tehran IRNA in English 0653 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA—Prosecutor General of the country Ayatollah Abolfazl Musavi-Tabrizi here Friday categorically denied reports by Western press quoting him as having said that women failing to observe the Islamic code of dressing in Iran will be executed. Contacted by IRNA Friday afternoon Ayatollah Musavi said that the Western press had completely distorted his remarks in a radio program aired on Thursday. "Those who do not observe the Islamic dress codes in Iran are not executed and what the Western media have attributed to me are pure lies," he told IRNA. "The long-standing hatred of the Western media towards the Islamic Republic of Iran is known to all and we do not expect otherwise from them (the Western media)," he added.

Ahmad Khomeyni Notes Agreement Among Officials

NC1608062391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Thousands of released prisoners of war and members of the public attended a ceremony yesterday afternoon at the tomb of Imam Khomeyni to mark the the first anniversary of the POW's return. Addressing these free men, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said: It is the duty of you, the dear ones, to preserve the Islam which was taught by the Prophet Mohammad, peace be upon him, and his scion.

He added: In Islamic Iran today, when the children of the imam are running the country's affairs, the domestic and foreign counterrevolution is carrying a widespread propaganda campaign in an attempt to show that the successors of his eminence the imam are not following his line. This false propaganda is dictated by the United States, in the hope of separating the people from the leader and the officials of the country.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni pointed out: There is absolutely no disagreement among the officials over principles, and they are all looking for better and more effective ways and means to ensure the victorious continuation of the revolution. Commenting on some of the problems facing society, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni noted: These problems stem from the economic siege against the Islamic Revolution and the imposed war, and we must stand behind the leader and the officials to overcome this stage, just as we did in the past.

The remarks by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni were preceded by a speech by Mr. Vakili, head of the Headquarters for Free Men's Affairs, in which he called on the country's state institutions and organizations to do more to ensure the better implementation of the special laws intended to assist the free men.

Paper Discusses Islamic Notions of Freedom

*LD1408182391 Tehran IRNA in English 1336 GMT
14 Aug 91*

[Text] Tehran, Aug 14, IRNA—In its editorial Wednesday the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said that the Islamic notion of freedom is obviously different from its Western notions in that it does not tolerate the freedom of subjects in a Muslim state to go beyond the bounds of Islam.

It said the freedom of a "handful of people who have (ideologically) broken loose from the rest of the nation, with anti-cultural linkings that are inconsistent with the aspirations of the people is, to be sure, some sort of freedom though not the kind of freedom demanded by the nation. That brand of freedom would pave the way for the return of a brand of freedom against which the people have been struggling."

The editorial said in part: "We have not attained this kind of freedom at a low price to give it away at a low price, or to witness its abuse. Our freedom today is the fruit of the unjust shedding of the blood of hundreds of thousands of martyrs and is the fruit of the blood of the heart of a brave

nation through several decades of an exhausting struggle against the enemies of humanity.

"The freedom that is ours is the blood money of our martyrs, here is a freedom that is the fruit of the untiring struggles of our nation. And here is a freedom that is the fruit of the struggle of our nation both past and present....

"To see that the masses, that is the originators of the revolution and the creators of this freedom, are all of a sudden labelled 'irresponsible', and to see that certain people be led into thinking that they can do anything according to their own weird taste without anybody being entitled to protest is never to be tolerable. It is possible that on certain occasions the people may be carried way by their boiling, pure feelings to the point of showing unintended reactions—which of course would better be avoided—but the concern of the people and the feeling of responsibility among the various strata of the society for safeguarding principles, aspirations, and freedom proper is a positive point which is to be protected and even praised and valued in order that it may become even firmer than it is....

"To have freedom for doing corruptive acts, to have freedom for acts of abandonment and loose morality, to have freedom for desecrating the sacred things are obviously brands of 'freedom' but that is not the brand of freedom acceptable to the nation, to the revolution and to Islam. That is the ground for our protest and for the protests of all those who are shouting at the top of their voice. That is: Freedom has bounds and limits that are set by the laws of Islam, by the social customs and by the statutes of the state."

IRI Becoming Dubayy's Largest Trading Partner
9IAS1285J London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Jul 91 p 4

[Text] Dubayy, with the export of various goods and merchandise to the Islamic Republic [IRI] in 1990, made that country its biggest trading partner in the region. The statistical sources in Dubayy have reported the total value of the exports of that country to Iran at about 2 billion dirhams (\$530 million) and added that the exported goods to the Islamic Republic were many types of merchandise, including electronic equipment, light and heavy machinery, various passenger cars, pickup trucks, gas powered air-conditioners, electrical kitchen appliances, household items, foodstuffs, and other consumer goods. The increase in the value of Dubayy's exports to the Islamic Republic last year—considering that the Persian Gulf waters were not calm due to the war between the allies and Iraq—has attracted the attention of trade experts. These experts announced that while the total value of Dubayy's exports amounted to \$7.5 billion dirhams last year, the export of more than 2 billion dirhams in goods to the Islamic Republic in this period shows that Dubayy sends more than one-fourth of its imported goods to Iranian markets. The trade statistical sources of Dubayy announced in a report that in 1989 Dubayy exported to the Islamic Republic various kinds of goods valued at 1.57 billion dirhams. A comparison of this figure with the value of Dubayy's exports to Iran last year shows an increase of 21 percent. These sources also announced that in exchange for importing various goods at an approximate value of half a billion dollars in 1989, the Islamic Republic exported goods valued at \$125 million to that country. These goods, according to the published report by the trade officials of Dubayy, include green groceries, dried fruits, livestock, dried groceries, dates, woolen handwoven carpets and caviar. The trade statistical report of Dubayy states that in May of this year, 1,089 commercial ships and boats carrying various Iranian export goods entered Dubayy. These statistics cited the number of commercial ships carrying Dubayy's exported goods to the Islamic Republic as 1,115.

A merchant who exports carpets told KEYHAN that the official figures published by the Dubayy trade sources only include the value of goods that have been traded legally between the two countries and do not include the value of smuggled trade. This merchant added: "At the present time, Iranian merchants smuggle significant amounts of goods produced in Iran, including caviar, antiques, precious stones and especially valuable handwoven Iranian carpets, to the free ports of Dubayy and Abu Dhabi and from there that merchandise is sent to other ports of the world." In another part of his telephone conversation, the Iranian merchant told KEYHAN that at the present, Dubayy has become a paradise for smugglers of traditional Iranian goods, and this has strongly affected the export market of that port. This merchant added: "Considering that the valuable handwoven Iranian carpets are smuggled out of the country without the payment of foreign currency deposits and export taxes and enter the free market of Dubayy, these items are sold at prices much lower than

carpets imported legally, and in this way harm the actual market of the export of these traditional Iranian goods."

Oil Minister on Note of Understanding With ROK

LD2707122291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] The fourth session of the joint economic and technological cooperation council between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of South Korea has come to an end in Seoul. At the end of this meeting a note of understanding was signed on bilateral cooperation by Mr. Aqazadeh, the petroleum minister and head of the Iranian delegation, and South Korea's Minister of Trade and Industry Yi Pong-so.

This morning on arrival in Tehran, Mr. Aqazadeh in an interview with our reporter talked about the most important aspects in that note of understanding. He said:

[Begin Aqazadeh recording] In this note of understanding we have reviewed the course of cooperation between the two countries. Fortunately, in the past four years, each year there has been growth compared to the previous year. In 1990 the volume of cooperation between the two countries reached 1.2 billion dollars. As for providing crude oil to the Republic of South Korea, Iran had the first position in 1990. It is predicted that the volume of cooperation will reach 2 billion dollars in 1991. At the moment, our oil agreements are for about 170,000 barrels a day. The export of non-oil items has been stressed in this note of understanding.

One of the most important new areas discussed in these talks between the Iranian and the South Korean sides was the preparation and equipment of the Tehran metro, regarding its equipment. [sentence as heard] The metro director inspected South Korea's factories in this field. The bilateral discussions showed good progress regarding the necessary means for equipping Tehran's metro. It was decided that, in the very near future, delegations from South Korea will come to Iran to inspect Arak's railway car plant. If conditions are appropriate, there may be the possibility of signing contracts. [end recording]

Guinean Minister, Mahluji Sign Mining Protocol
LD0108044191 Tehran IRNA in English 1314 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA—Guinean Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment Jean Traore wound up his visit to Iran Wednesday morning. Traore, who was here at the invitation of the Mines and Metals Minister Mohammad Hoseyn Mahluji, signed an economic protocol in mining cooperation before his departure, calling for exploiting of Guinea's bauxite mines and production of alumina powder used in aluminum industries. Last night, Traore called on President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to submit a written message from Guinean President Colonel Lansana Conte, and to brief him on the fruitful talks held with the Iranian officials on fishing, energy and

transportation issues. Dwelling on the political, economic and social developments in his West African state, Traore called for "greater cooperation" among Muslim countries. Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said Iran was for promotion of relations with African countries especially the Muslim states, and described it as "a religious and revolutionary duty." Iran gives priority to relations with the Third World, "unfortunately, the 1980-88 (Iraqi) war, imposed on Iran by world arrogance, wasted many of our facilities," he added.

Nurbakhsh Returns From PRC Visit; Agreements Signed

NC2008074791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance, who went to the PRC at the head of a delegation to the sixth session of the joint commission for economic, commercial, scientific, and technological cooperation between Iran and the PRC, returned to Tehran this morning. Dr. Nurbakhsh spoke to our correspondent on the outcome of his visit to Beijing: While we were there we signed a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in the economic, scientific, and technological fields and a new trade agreement.

The minister also said: I discussed economic, political, and commercial issues in my meetings with the prime minister and the ministers of foreign affairs, energy, and foreign relations.

We began the joint economic session with an analysis of the two countries' economic performance in the past year, Dr. Nurbakhsh said, following which the future programs for economic cooperation between Iran and the PRC were formulated. The PRC stressed the need to create a balance in the commercial exchanges between the two countries and agreed to buy a considerable amount of non-oil commodities from Iran in the next year. In addition, the PRC agreed to equip some of its refineries to enable them to refine Iranian crude for domestic consumption.

Minister Nurbakhsh concluded: We also decided to hold a joint session to discuss exchanges on trading information to increase the level of non-oil exchanges.

Commercial Trade With PRC Expanding

91AS1285K London KEYHAN in Persian 1 Aug 91 p 4

[Text] While the PRC sent a total of \$260 million in goods to the consumer markets of the Islamic Republic last year, the imports of that country from Iran did not exceed one-fifth of the total value of its exports to the Islamic Republic. According to the trade statistics published by Chinese sources, that country has purchased \$50 million worth of goods from the Islamic Republic in 1990.

Reports from Tehran indicate that the Islamic Republic is unhappy over its negative trade balance with China and is trying to study the existing potential for increasing its non-oil exports to China by sending a trade delegation to Beijing. The above-mentioned report makes it explicit that

the issue of the Iran-China trade imbalance will be discussed in the future meeting of the joint economic commission of the two countries, which is to be held in the middle of Mordad [August] in the capital of China. During this meeting, efforts will be made to provide the private sector of Iran with resources to export traditional goods and goods manufactured in that country to China.

Extent of Purchases From Germany Disclosed

91AS1285E London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Jul 91 p 4

[Text] Following the unsuccessful conclusions of the meeting of the joint Iran-Germany economic committee in Tehran, the trade officials of the Islamic Republic revealed that in the past 10 years Iran has purchased more than 42 billion DM [German mark] in goods and services from Germany. These officials also announced that the total purchases of Germany from Iran in the past 10 years have not exceeded 14 billion DM. Thus, it becomes clear that the imports of Germany from Iran in the past 10 years were about one-fourth the value of its exports to that country. An analysis of the trade figures between Germany and Iran in the period in question confirms that the major part of the exports from Iran were crude oil, and traditional export goods from Iran did not make up a significant portion of the value of the total goods sold to Germany. Reports from Tehran indicate that the recent meeting of the joint Iran-Germany economic committee, in which Jurgen Mulan, the economic minister of that country, participated, did not succeed as expected due to Bonn's refusal to complete the atomic energy power plant in Iran. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance of the Islamic Republic, described the trade balance between the two countries in the recent years as unfavorable and expressed hope that in the future Tehran and Bonn will achieve a relative trade balance. Simultaneous with the meeting of the joint Iran-Germany economic commission, the atomic energy agency published a communique strongly criticizing the German officials for refusing to complete the Bushehr nuclear power plant. This agency claimed in its communique that the damages Iran has suffered due to the failure to complete the Bushehr nuclear power plant by the German contractor (Siemens) has so far been more than 10 billion [as published]. The atomic energy agency wrote in its communique: "According to the opinion and evaluation of nuclear experts, it is possible to update the safety of the Bushehr power plant at a cost of about \$30 million. If the issue of 'lack of safety' of the Bushehr power plant has prompted the German government to make this decision, it would have been expected that that government would propose the 'update' of the existing power plant, unless other reasons are behind the decision of the German officials." The atomic energy agency added in its communique: "If this supposition is true, the German government has overlooked the political-economic effects of such a decision."

German Siemens To Build Power Plant in Tehran

91AS1285I London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Jul 91 p 4

[Text] After receiving and implementing the plan to build the 1,170 megawatt natural gas power plant for the production of electricity in Gilan, Siemens Industries of

Germany succeeded in winning another order to build another similar natural gas power plant in southern Tehran. The agreements for the implementation of this plan was granted by the Tehran regional electricity company to the German Siemens company, and its value has been estimated at about \$1.8 billion. The officials of the German Siemens company announced the receipt of the order to build the natural gas power plant from the Ministry of Energy of the Islamic regime some time ago and confirmed that this power plant is one of the largest natural gas power plants for the production of electricity that this company has built so far. KEYHAN published in Tehran, which reported the 2.6 billion DM order for the building of the natural gas power plant, quoting IRNA from Bonn, wrote: "This order was received from the Tehran regional electricity company and includes the sale and installation of a 2,080 megawatt power plant in southern Tehran." This newspaper added: "The construction operations for this power plant will begin in two phases in early 1992 and will be completed in 5 years."

IRI Buying Gas Turbines From UK

91ASI285L London KEYHAN in Persian 11 Jul 91 p 4

[Text] The U.S. General Electric Company will export a number of natural gas turbines to the Islamic Republic through the "John (Graven)" engineering group and the engineering group of the British "Trafalgar House" trade group. The parts for the ignitions of these turbines were designed and manufactured by the U.S. General Electric and "John (Graven)" industrial companies. These parts are assembled and sent to Iran where they provide for some of the natural turbine needs of the Tavanir Company. The FINANCIAL TIMES published in London, which has reported the sale of the turbines to the Islamic Republic, mentioned the value of the transaction in question at \$350 million and added that the equipment in question will be delivered to the Ministry of Energy of the Islamic Republic in order to expand the Iranian electricity outreach network.

The above-mentioned newspaper wrote in its report that the agreement for the sale of natural gas turbines to the Tavanir Company is one of the most essential transactions signed in the area of facilities and equipment for providing electricity, and the signing of this agreement shows the stability that recently, since the end of the war in the Persian Gulf, can be seen in the markets of this region. The FINANCIAL TIMES pointed out that the agreement signed between Tavanir and the "John (Graven)" industries is considered the largest transaction signed so far to purchase 124-megawatt natural gas turbines.

Italy Assisting in Gas Exploration Project

91ASI285M London KEYHAN in Persian 25 Jul 91 p 4

[Text] Italian contractors are assisting the Islamic Republic with carrying out plans for exploring, digging, excavating and creating facilities for refining natural gas in the coastal waters of Iran in the Persian Gulf.

Engineers and experts of the Italian "Say Pam" company affiliated with the petroleum company of that country

began the digging of three wells for the evaluation of a natural gas field in the Persian Gulf some time ago. Experts of the engineering and design company, "T. P. I.," will assist other engineers in the implementation of this project. The implementation of the project, which has various phases, has been conferred by the National Iranian Oil Company on the Italians and, according to projections, will be completed in 18 months.

IRNA, quoting a "Say Pam" company spokesman, reported from Rome that the first phase of the project, which includes the digging of three wells and studies of the natural gas field, will cost about \$37 million.

The above-mentioned news agency pointed out in its report that the details of the second phase of the project are not yet clear and will include the installation of the necessary systems for the platforms and natural gas refining facilities. KEYHAN published in Tehran mentioned the cost of the phase for the installation of the platforms and natural gas refinery facilities at about \$1 billion and pointed out that these facilities when operational will be able to produce 35 million cubic meters of natural gas.

Economic Memorandum Signed With Pakistan

LD3107214191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] The sixth session of the Iran-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission ended today with the signing of a memorandum of understanding by the economic affairs and finance ministers of the two countries and the heads of the Iranian and Pakistani delegations to the commission. Following the signing of the memorandum, the heads of the commission, interviewed by correspondents, stressed the need for suitable expansion of economic ties, considering the cultural links between the two countries, expanding regional cooperation, and increasing the role of the private sector in trade exchanges and industrial cooperation.

Mr. Sartaj Aziz, economic affairs and finance minister of Pakistan, said: Each side is to provide \$50 million annual export credit to the other side to facilitate exchanges in the private sector. Pointing to the meeting of the oil ministers of the two countries during the session, he said: Iran and Pakistan have agreed on a timetable for the joint project of constructing the Karachi oil refinery. The refinery, with a capacity of 120,000 barrels of oil, will be built in four years with Iran's participation.

Mr. Nurbakhsh, economic affairs and finance minister, pointed to the understanding between the two countries concerning the establishment of a gas pipeline from Iran to Pakistan and called for this proposal to be considered as a national project by the two countries. He added: During the session of the joint commission of the two countries, understandings were reached in the customs, industrial, telecommunications, posts, and cultural fields. With the establishment of an executive committee in six months,

the practical progress of the understandings, including the situation concerning exchanges in the private sector, will be assessed.

NPC Awards Indian Company Training Project
91AS1381A Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 3 Aug 91 p 2

[Text] New Delhi, 2 Aug (IRNA)—Iran's National Petroleum Company (NPC) has awarded the Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL) a \$4.4m contract to train its personnel.

The contract was awarded to IPCL in the face of stiff competition from Turkey and some European countries. It was signed by NPC deputy director for administration and training, Hoseyn 'Ali Amuchi and the IPCL chairman, Hansmukh Shah.

The training contract follows the visit of petrochemicals secretary M.S. Gill and Hansmukh Shah to Iran in February at the invitation of Dr. Ahmad Rahgozar, deputy oil minister and managing director of NPC.

During the visit, a memorandum of understanding was signed for cooperation in the field of petrochemicals between Iran and India, particularly in plant operations, research and development, bilateral trade, joint ventures, information exchange and regional cooperation.

The first batch of 30 trainees with Dr. Mohammad R.H. Rudsari, NPC educational planning and evaluation manager, as the team leader, has already arrived in India. Nine other teams of 30 trainees are expected later.

Inaugurating the training program at the IPCL complex in the western city of Baroda in Gujarat State, Wednesday, Gill said that India was committed to sharing with Iran its growing expertise and experience in the field of petrochemicals.

Rudsari, on his part, said that Iran's priority, after the prolonged, eight-year Iraqi war, was maximization of the country's oil revenue and development of oil-based products.

Government To Establish Export Promotion Bank
LD1708174591 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT
17 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA—Iran will soon launch an "exports promotion bank" with an initial capital of rials 50 billion.

Enjoying hard currency reserves, the bank aims to serve exporters of industrial and traditional goods by meeting their needs for cash and foreign exchange in all stages from import of raw materials, manufacture and export of finished products.

It will also provide exporters with information on the financial status of foreign purchasers.

According to the Ministry of Economy and Financial Affairs, one of the most outstanding roles the bank is designed to play in promoting exports, is to provide

facilities for foreign buyers either directly or indirectly in the purchase of Iranian commodities even on installment basis.

In setting up the exports promotion bank, Iran will hire the services of international banking consultants to advise exporters on ways of improving their goods both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Regime Attempting To Establish Single Rate of Exchange

91AS1285R London KEYHAN in Persian
11 Jul 91 p 12

[Text] The biggest problem that the government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani faces at the present time is the problem of standardizing the foreign currency rate. Upon the recommendation of all domestic experts as well as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, from whom the Islamic Republic has requested loans, the multi-rate system of foreign currency—which is one of the inventions of the Islamic economists of the regime that has paralyzed the national economy and makes its relationship with the financial and monetary systems and establishments of the world impossible—one single rate must be devised and announced for the exchange of the rial and dollar. Considering the severe and constant decrease in the value of the rial over the past 12 years, the single rate will have to be more than 1,000 rials. Therefore, the 70-rial dollar or the "preferred" and "competitive" rates will no longer exist.

This decision to set a single rate is an economic necessity which the regime has no choice but to rapidly announce. The director of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic said recently that soon the new rate would be announced and stock exchange games on foreign monies would end. But the Cabinet concluded, in one of its recent meetings that the announcement that a single rial-dollar rate is a security risk, would be followed by increases in the price of all goods and services, and would undoubtedly cause violent protests among the people throughout the country. Hence, Hasan Habibi, the government spokesman, denied the statements by "Adeli" about the foreign currency rate having been determined and to be announced soon and said the issue is "under investigation" and "will not be implemented soon."

At the present time, the regime is preparing a suppressive security plan to be implemented before the single foreign currency rate is announced in order to prepare for the unpredictable consequences of the significant increase in prices. Some private reports about the specifics of the above-mentioned plan indicate that the Islamic government will soon begin a new attack on the people in the area of "fighting moral corruption," "improper veiling" and similar issues. Security experts of the regime have recommended to Rafsanjani and Khamenei that another incident like that of "Salman Rushdie" be created, through which they can claim that "Islam" is fighting "heathenism" and subsequently be able to mobilize the Hezbollah people and silence the opponents with the label of being mercenaries of "global heathenism" and "oppression."

Central Bank Official on Rates, Debts, Other Issues

91AS1217A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Jul 91 p 2

[Interview with Mr. Asghar Kashani, foreign currency deputy director of the Central Bank, by KEYHAN; date and place not given]

[Text]

Note

On 30 Ordibehesht [20 May] this year, the Central Bank announced its latest decision concerning 13,000 debtors. In this report, three groups of debtors were introduced. Other groups must also be added to these groups, those are individuals who have bought and sold foreign currency agreement letters. The way such individuals operated was that, since one of the requirements for exports and imports is to have a trade permit, and to acquire a trade permit requires having a checking account in a bank as well as having a good reputation and good credit, a number of profiteering and opportunistic individuals would, through some branches of the banks, present a group of individuals who were not familiar enough with the laws and regulations to the Ministry of Commerce to obtain trade permits. After receiving the trade permits, those individuals would go to the Central Bank and receive foreign currency agreement letters. Then these profiteers would sell the agreement letters to real professional tradesmen at 40 to 45 tomans per dollar. Every agreement letter is for more than \$10,000, and merchants, without paying taxes, would export the goods and merchandise they wanted. At the same time, it has been anticipated in the export and import law that if merchants make use of their own agreement letters, they must return to the country the foreign currency they have been obligated for within 14 months in the form of a letter of deposit. But because the goods were exported on the basis of someone else's trade permit, the original merchant is not obliged to return the foreign currency to the country. In connection with the issues concerning the foreign currency agreements, how to deal with the foreign currency debtors, permission to take gold out of the country and the foreign debt of the country, we had an interview with "Mr. Asghar Kashani," the foreign currency deputy director of the Central Bank, which follows. First, concerning the buying and selling of foreign currency agreement letters, he said:

Until Bahman 1369 [21 January-19 February 1991], when the agreements were bought and sold in the market, this was true, and because there were restrictions on exports and exporters in the country, the exporter had to have export credit. On the other hand, imports in exchange for exports were common. There were two kinds of transactions in the market: first, transactions to sell and transfer export credit, meaning that those who had export credit sold their right to those who wanted to export but did not have export credit; second, transactions for the sale of agreements for the import of legalized goods, meaning that many of importers who had no foreign currency at their disposal could, by purchasing the agreements of the exporters, release their goods and engage in imports in

exchange for exports. In any case, the obligation of the owner of the agreement would be met in this manner. Therefore, there was mutual interest in it. Since Bahman 1369 [21 January-19 February 1991], when the Central Bank announced its new export policies, the buying and selling of export credit has no longer taken place, because the Central Bank granted export permits to all individuals who wished to export and eliminated the requirement of having export credit. In the second case, that is, the transaction of agreements, it also was eliminated, because the foreign currency obtained from exports is purchased by the banks at the floating rate, and therefore imports in exchange for exports or through export agreements are no longer an issue. In other words, every importer who wishes to import goods at the floating rate does not need to purchase an agreement and can go directly to the banks to purchase the foreign currency he needs. Therefore, transactions of the second kind, that is, agreement transactions, are also no longer an issue.

[KEYHAN] How did the Central Bank deal with those who had foreign currency obligations in the past, and how does it deal with them today?

[Kashani] Those with foreign currency obligations consist of two groups: those with foreign currency obligations due to exports and those with foreign currency obligations due to imports. In regards to exports, the manner in which the Central Bank dealt with those who had obligations in the past was that first, identifying their problem and why they had not met their obligation, it would give them the opportunity to do so; therefore, the files of these people were first discussed in the foreign currency committee of the Central Bank and then, in various cases, they were granted clemency and their obligations were settled. If the foreign currency committee determined that there was no margin for clemency or the terms had not been accepted by the person with foreign currency obligations, the case was sent to the judicial authorities. The judicial authorities issued the necessary reply after examining the case, and then the Central Bank would take steps to carry it out. In this manner, many of the individuals were obliged to meet their obligations to the bank. There were also cases when the judicial authorities determined that the individual was not at fault in failing to meet his obligation and, therefore, pardoned him. In addition, in the past, the Central Bank had used two other methods to oblige the individuals to meet their obligation: first restricting their exit from the country and second confiscating their deposits or arresting their guarantors. Restricting the exit from the country of those with foreign currency obligations, besides the legal arguments which the bank has in its jurisdiction for such actions, would not in the end result in the collection of the debt by the bank, and among the exporters there are many individuals who have obligations for very small amounts for their exports, but never wish to leave the country. Therefore, restricting their exit from the country has had no effect on their decision to meet their obligations. It must also be emphasized that many exporters with foreign currency obligations are government organizations, and placing restrictions on their former directors would not affect the collection of the foreign currency from exports

by the bank. In regards to those with foreign currency obligations due to imports, the issue is different. Most of these are also government organizations whose obligation is restricted to amounts that are due to the differences in evaluation of the procurement and distribution centers and the evaluations of the office that determines customs values. In some cases, too, the foreign currency obligation is the result of unloading. In such cases, the Central Bank stops the trade activities of such individuals with obligations, not renewing their trade permits and not granting them financial facilitation. In cases when the amount of foreign currency obligation was significant, the case was referred to the judicial authorities, and in this manner the debts were collected by the bank. The foreign currency committee has treated those with foreign currency obligations due to imports the same as it does with those with foreign currency obligations due to exports. Mainly by examining the situation of every importer in the past, efforts have been made to collect the debts to the bank. The present dealing of the Central Bank with these two groups with foreign currency obligations is as follows. In regards to exporters, since 1 Bahman 1369 [21 January 1991], when the foreign currency policies of the Central Bank regarding exporters were announced, a comprehensive study was made in the bank about how to force these individuals to meet their obligations and, on the other hand, remove the restrictions that were created due to their past activities and to bring them towards a sound economic movement, because creating restrictions for that group of individuals with obligations who have been engaged in sound economic activities and have merely been unable to pay their obligations due to circumstances beyond their control had caused them to carry out their activities indirectly and through middlemen. Obviously, using middlemen makes the economic activities unhealthy and prepares the way for circumventing legal regulations. Therefore, the Central Bank reached the decision that, firstly, it would remove the restrictions on exiting the country for those individuals whose obligation is less than \$500,000 and, secondly, it would convert a certain amount as the net obligation of these individuals into rials and collect it from them. If the exporter fails to pay the amount, he shall be prosecuted in the Justice Department as before. The amount that is determined as the net amount of obligation has been obtained by precise calculations which in short are appropriate with the difference in the rates of foreign currency on the open market in the year that the obligation should have been paid and the figure that the exporter would have gained had he paid the obligation on time after the cost of the exported goods, calculating the interest on the amount for the period of delay. In this manner, every exporter can pay this amount in rials to settle his past obligation. From 1 Bahman 1369 [21 January 1991] also, once the new foreign currency policies have been announced, the procedures to settle the export agreements will be on the basis of the new regulations, and it is hoped that from now on we will not have any cases concerning export obligations that have not been fulfilled. In regards to importers as well, steps had to be taken to bring them in line with the new foreign currency policies of the bank. For this reason, studies have also been

made in this regard, and it is hoped that the results will soon be announced to the public.

[KEYHAN] What is the reason for a system with several foreign currency rates?

[Kashani] In one sentence, it is due to the limitations of foreign currency resources compared to the demand. But at the same time, there are other reasons, for instance, the interference of administrative and executive organizations in the economic mechanisms and fixing the prices of goods and services artificially. Since the Central Bank does not endorse the present multi-rate system, the direction of the economic policies of the country, and the goal of the five-year plan, is to reach a single rate. And we hope that by following the economic modification policies which are under way, this result will be obtained as soon as possible.

[KEYHAN] What actions must be taken to raise the value of the rial?

[Kashani] To achieve this, several specific policies are being followed in the country: first, the increase in the gross national product through better use of resources, which we witnessed last year. This year, following the same policies, especially by placing foreign currency at the disposal of factories, the gross national product is expected to increase significantly, and thus the economic growth of the country will attain the goals cited in the five-year plan. Second, the Central Bank has attended to the control of inflation as part of the economic modification policies. As evidenced by the past year's figures, the results have been favorable. Moreover, it can be said that the increase in the value of the rial will come as the result of all economic decisions, such as the control of cash flow, harnessing inflation, increasing foreign currency revenues, modifying the balance of payments, reforming the rate of foreign currency and increasing the growth of fixed investments, all of which are being followed in the present government policies.

[KEYHAN] How true are the guarantees concerning the exit of gold from the country?

[Kashani] There has certainly been no discussion of the exit of gold from the country. On the contrary, this is prohibited. Studies are underway in the Central Bank regarding the entry of gold into the country, but no final decision has been made yet.

[KEYHAN] What is the amount of our foreign debt? What is your opinion in this regard? What is your opinion about usance?

[Kashani] When we speak of debt, we must differentiate between debt from loans, debt from trade documents, and debt from financial resources for projects. When we speak of the debts of countries such as those of Latin American countries, we are referring to the direct loans that those countries have received and are unable to pay today. But when we speak of Iranian debt, we must note that Iran has no direct loans. The national obligations are the result of trade documents concerning the import of goods, which have been projected in the annual budgets ratified by the Majles and are limited to specific amounts in ratio to the

national revenues. In regards to obligations due to the funding of projects, these obligations are specified, are created in accordance with the annual plan and budget laws, and will be repaid in two forms, either from such export revenues as petrochemical projects or revenues resulting from savings on the import of iron, cement and sugar cane. Therefore, first, there is a difference in nature between the Iranian obligations with the debts and obligations of other countries as debtors and, secondly, the amounts of these debts are annually accounted for in the national budget and in the total plan and are limited. More importantly, the Majles most certainly has determined the amounts that must be paid as installments for these obligations and limited them in the law to prevent problems in the future. Concerning usance, first we must understand the concept of usance and, secondly, answer the question of whether or not usance is a kind of debt. Concerning the meaning of usance as we use it in Iran, it means postponing the date of the payment of the price of goods that are imported through credit documents. This method is employed by banks throughout the world to regulate the flow of funds and depends on whether or not it relies on resources or in which case it can or cannot be considered a debt. In Iran, every fund that is opened as usance is first allocated to a source in the form of a budget. Hence, it is not considered a debt. Rather, it is used as a method of payment in regulating the flow of funds.

Allocation of \$3 Billion for Importing Essential Goods

91AS1285S London *KEYHAN* in Persian 11 Jul 91 p 4

[Text] The Ministry of Commerce of the Islamic Republic, through allocation of \$3 billion in foreign currency, makes purchases from foreign countries and imports a major portion of the foodstuff and essential needs of the people.

The minister of commerce of the Islamic regime in Tehran announced some time ago that this year (1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992]), \$1.8 billion has been allocated to the trade sector, \$50 million for the import of iron ware, \$290 million for the import of paper and more than \$250 million for the procurement of tires and spare parts for vehicles. This official told reporters: "The procurement of essential goods and public foodstuff will continue to take the form of rations at the official rate by the government." He added: "In order to modify the prices and offer goods at suitable rates, the government has anticipated special goods at special junctures for the workers and employees."

The minister of commerce of the Islamic Republic, speaking to the reporters and representatives of the media, said concerning the lack of control of prices by the government and the economic pressure on the low income strata of the society: "The implementation of this economic plan has a series of positive points and a series of points that may have unpleasant consequences in the short run."

Billions of Dollars of Spare Parts To Be Imported

91AS1285G London *KEYHAN* in Persian 18 Jul 91 p 4

[Text] The open-door import policy implemented by the economic officials of the Islamic regime in Tehran has brought the Iranian consumer market goods from European countries and Japan.

Under the pretext of breaking the prices in the consumer market, instead of moving towards effective policies to increase domestic production, the Ministry of Commerce of the Islamic Republic has given a free hand to the merchants and importers to flood Iran with goods produced in other countries, and in this way annually, a major portion of the foreign currency revenues from the sale of oil, the credit resources from credit purchases (usance) and credit and loans received from foreign sources will be spent on the purchase and import of various goods and merchandise from other countries. According to a report from Tehran, following the announcement of a special report on \$3 billion in foreign currency to import foodstuff and essential goods from abroad the officials of the center for procurement and distribution of machinery announced that for the import of items under the jurisdiction of the center \$2.7 billion worth of machinery and spare parts were ordered in the past year. Nader Dehqani, the director general of the above-mentioned center, announced the news of the gradual import of \$2.7 billion in spare parts for various vehicles and said: "Of this amount, \$284 million consists of imports without the transfer of foreign currency, of which 60 percent was for spare parts for passenger cars and 40 percent for spare parts for agricultural and road building machinery. The above-mentioned official pointed out that in 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] a release authorization for about \$140 million was issued without the transfer of foreign currency for imported parts, all of which have been imported into the country. Nader Dehqani also announced that this year \$510 million in foreign currency has been allocated for the import of spare parts.

Minister Reports Shipping, Transport Activity

LD1708200391 Tehran *Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network* in Persian 1430 GMT
17 Aug 91

[All figures as heard]

[Text] The deputy minister of roads and transport and managing director of the ports and shipping activities, pointed out that in '69 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] the organization had reached a peak performance level. He said the operational capacity of the ports increased from 18 million tonnes in '68 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] to 19 million tonnes in '69, and the work of unloading containers in '69 showed a 149 percent increase in comparison with '68.

Remarking on the number of ships arriving in the country's ports, the deputy minister and managing director said there has been a 26 percent rise in the number of ships in comparison with '68.

On the amount of commodities transported from ports to consumer and industrial centers, he said: Out of 15,824 tonnes of goods imported through the country's ports, during '69 over 15,400 tonnes were transported to consumer centers in over 811,000 trucks and 27,570 vans.

IRSC To Expand Persian Gulf Shipping Network

*91AS1381B Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 3 Aug 91 p 16*

[Text] Nowshahr (Mazandaran), 2 Aug (IRNA)—The Islamic Republic Shipping Company (IRSC) is to purchase 23 multi-purpose vessels by the end of 1994 in order to boost the capacity of its commercial fleet, IRSC managing-director Muhammad Hussein Dajmar said here Thursday.

The shipping line between Kuwait and the southern Iranian port city of Bushehr is to resume operations by 22 August, he said.

Dajmar expressed hope that Iranian vessels would once again ply between Bandar Jask and the Emirate of Fujaira (Gulf of Oman) as well as Chahbahar and Muscat by the end of the year.

As part of its plan, he said IRSC is to start a regular service between Bushehr and the Persian Gulf capitals of Doha (Qatar) and Manama (Bahrain).

Iran's shipping lines have been connected with east Asia and Brazil and other countries in Latin America, he said.

"We have obtained permission from the Soviet Union for our ships to enter the Caspian Sea via Soviet waterways," Dajmar said, adding that a third cargo ship was to start sailing between Iranian and Soviet port cities on the Caspian Sea as of next year.

The Islamic Republic and the Soviet Union have reached agreement in principle to set up a joint shipping company to carry goods to the Black Sea and northern Europe and vice versa, he concluded.

Funds Needed To Complete Petrochemical Complex

*LD1208225491 Tehran IRNA in English 1741 GMT
12 Aug 91*

[Text] Arak, (Central Prov.) Aug. 12, IRNA—More than rials 1.4 billion in foreign exchange has been spent since early 1988 on the first phase of a petrochemical plant here and another drs 600 million in hard currency is needed to make the plant's second phase go on stream.

"Once the first phase becomes operational by mid 1992, some 350,000 tons of various petrochemical products including polyethylene, polypropene, polybutadiene and pyrolyses gasoline will be produced," the plant's managing director Mostafa Taheri Najafabadi told a group of reporters who inspected the petrochemical plant.

He said another 200,000 tons of petrochemical products would be produced once the second phase started operation.

At present, he said, 56 foreigners are working on various sections of the plant which constitute 15 percent of its total staff.

New Metallurgy Plant Commissioned

*LD3107164491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT
31 Jul 91*

[Excerpt] The Iran powder metallurgy plant was commissioned in Alborz industrial estate in Qazvin this morning. The products of this plant, which include 3,000 tonnes of iron and the manufacture of 1,000 items by making use of powder metallurgy methods, will be used in welding electrodes, brake pads, the auto industry, and the manufacture of household goods, springs, meters, and compressors. More than 10 billion rials have been spent on this project.

Mr. Nezhad-Hoseynian, minister of heavy industries, spoke at the ceremonies for the commissioning of this industrial plant. He emphasized the importance of acquiring new technology and encouraging the expansion of exports. He described the policy of encouraging the members of the public and the private sector to invest in technology as one of the main goals and policies of the government. [passage omitted]

Tehran on Need To Expedite Reconstruction

*NC1408081291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT
14 Aug 91*

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Excerpt] In the name of God. Following the acceptance of Resolution 598 by the Islamic Republic of Iran, a new political, economic, social, and cultural atmosphere in the Islamic society emerged for the reconstruction of society.

Reconstruction has been stated as one of the fundamental and pivotal topics within the framework of the overall objectives of the system and more than three years have passed since the new climate surfaced, during which this subject caught the attention of many researchers at home and abroad.

Therefore, in reconstruction, the infrastructure of the society, with all its extensiveness and future prospects, should be considered. Any discourse on reconstruction in our country has individual characteristics. Other countries' patterns of reconstruction cannot be adopted in toto, as the various ideological, social characteristics, as well as our economic resources differ from the values and circumstances of all other countries. But the experiences of other countries and their manners of tackling their economic issues have valuable points which merit consideration. For example, Japan suffered heavy losses in the aftermath of World War II. [passage omitted]

Now that our country is in the throes of reconstruction, and has sustained massive economic losses from the imposed war—which have been estimated officially at \$1 trillion—the experiences of all countries and the dictates of wisdom affirm the fact that to recoup these losses, and for reconstruction, time and the endurance of some difficulties is necessary.

To reach the level of a developed society, Islamic Iran needs extensive effort and endeavors and must endure

some shortages. These can be combated with fortitude and perseverance in the face of difficulties and can bring the glad tidings of a bright future.

Pars Aluminum Company Increases Production
91AS1021E Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian
29 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] News Department—The Pars Aluminum Company, builder of various kinds of aluminum products and industrial foil, issued its production report for last year, which showed a significant increase in production over previous years.

The Ministry of Heavy Industries Public Relations Office reports that last year the Pars Aluminum Company, one of the factories under this ministry's tariffs, was able to produce 9,985 tons of warm sheet aluminum, 10,438 tons of cold sheet aluminum, and 9,384 tons of industrial foil, thereby increasing its production over the year 1368 [21 March 1989 - 20 March 1990] by more than 190, 173, and 93 percent respectively. Likewise during the same period it grew more than 141 percent in the production of 10,500 tons of packaged products.

In view of the public need for aluminum products, this country increased its sales by 1,126 percent in 1369 [21 March 1990 - 20 March 1991] over the year 1368 with production of 9,560 tons, and with the increase in production, there was a decline in prices for these products on the nation's markets.

According to the same report, with help from the Ministry of Heavy Industries, last year the Pars Aluminum Company expanded its credits and foreign purchases by more than \$9 million, and with this amount of foreign exchange, it increased its credits more than 1,134 percent over the year 1368.

Fisheries Revenue Tops \$72 Million
91AS1285Q London KEYHAN in Persian 11 Jul 91 p 4

[Text] In the course of last year (1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991]), by exporting major amounts of caviar and other fishery products to the Persian Gulf countries, Europe, Japan and the United States, the Islamic Republic brought about \$72.5 million to the treasury. According to a statistical report published by the Ministry of Construction Jihad, the fishery company in the past few years, by expanding its activities, has not only increased the production of shrimp and other fish used by the people, but in order to gain foreign currency revenues, it has increased caviar production and export, and at the present among the export items in the country, caviar has an important rank.

In its report, the Ministry of Construction Jihad points out that the fishery company in 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] had a foreign currency income of \$33.7 million, and in the past 4 years, this income has more than tripled. Simultaneously, the fishery company announced that this year the company has exported significant amounts of shrimp to the sheikdoms of the Persian Gulf

and several other countries and has succeeded in adding to its foreign currency revenues.

Hamadan Power Station Half Completed

LD1508210391 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Excerpt] More than 50 percent of the construction work on the 1,000 megawatt power station in Hamadan Province, in the west of the country, has been completed at a cost of over 32 billion rials of credit. [passage omitted] This was announced by the project's executive manager during Energy Minister Zangeneh's inspection of the project's progress. He added that from the total of around 118 billion rials of credit envisaged for the construction of the great power station in the west, 32,393 million rials were spent by the end of last [Iranian] year, and a further 30 billion rials will be spent during the current year.

The executive manager of the power station said the project will become operational around the end of next year.

On the other hand, the Energy Minister referred to the consumption of electricity increasing between 1,200 to 1,500 megawatt each year and said: When it is operational, the great power station in the west will be capable of providing two-thirds of that increase in consumption each year.

It should be added that the construction work on the project, including the construction of huge metal frameworks and building works were implemented by Iranian experts and specialists using modern technology for the first time.

Hamadan Power Plant To Receive \$600 Million

LD1608135391 Tehran IRNA in English 1241 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Hamadan, Aug 16, IRNA—Minister of Energy Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh said dlrs. 600 million have been earmarked for the 1,000 megawatt power plant coming up around this western city.

He said Thursday that the first phase of the power plant, for which rials 60 billion have been spent, is to be completed next year.

According to the minister, the other phases of the plant will go on stream within a period of 18 months after the inauguration of the first phase.

Rash of Fires Reported in Tehran Bazaar

Fire at Fabric Warehouse

LD0308125991 Tehran IRNA in English 0948 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tehran, Aug 3, IRNA—A fabric warehouse in 'Saray-e Ruhi' in downtown Tehran bazaar caught fire and about 20 bales of cloth were burned Saturday morning. The fire broke out when shops and stores in the area had

not opened for the daily business yet and, therefore, fire fighters managed to put the blaze out quickly. The Saturday morning fire is the third in the Tehran bazaar in the past few days causing concern among the bazaarise.

Large quantities of stored sponge and rice were charred and hundreds of precious handwoven Persian carpets and many bales of cloth were burned last Thursday and Monday, respectively. The Saturday morning incident took place in an area which is described as the heart of [the] bazaar by bazaarise. "Had the fire not been put out on time, it would have spread to a major section and caused irreparable damage," they told IRNA in interviews.

Meanwhile, technical deputy at 'Iran Insurance Company' Hojjat Pustinchi said that only less than five percent of the bazaar shops which sustained damage in the recent fires have insurance policies. In last Thursday's fire, he added, about 300 to 400 shops, mainly carpet and fabric shops, were either completely burned down or sustained substantial damage. Since most of the damaged shops were not covered by insurance, a close estimate of the damage has not been possible. "However, the total damage is expected to be as high as rls. 8,000 million," Pustinchi noted.

"The architecture of Tehran bazaar is old and electricity wires are worn out so that there is a possibility of fresh fires any minute," he added.

Workshop Burned

*LD2008123291 Tehran IRNA in English 0853 GMT
20 Aug 91*

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 20, IRNA—Fire erupted at a tricot-weaving workshop in Tehran's main bazaar Monday night but was brought under control within an hour.

The fire broke out at 21:20 hours local time Monday (16:50 GMT) on the second floor of 'Saray-e Taleqani' due to what a law enforcement official termed, "short-circuit."

"However", he added, "the main cause and the extent of the damage caused will be determined by experts later."

The incident, the fifth in this month, caused no loss of life but inflicted material damage. The workshop was completely burned down and windows of the nearby shops smashed.

A fire fighter said that fire engines rushed to the scene of the incident within five minutes after the fire broke out and fire fighters managed to put the blaze out in an hour.

In the past four incidents in downtown Tehran bazaar, several shops and warehouses were burned and billions of rials worth of commodities, including precious handwoven carpets were turned to ashes.

Clothing Shops Damaged

*LD2008214891 Tehran IRNA in English 1601 GMT
20 Aug 91*

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 20, IRNA—Some 15 clothing shops were damaged in a fire which broke out at Sabzeh Meydan District of Tehran's bazaar at midnight Monday (1730 GMT), the morning daily KAR-VA-KARGAR reported on Tuesday.

The daily said the reason for the fire, the second in 24 hours, was unknown.

Earlier, a knitting workshop in the bazaar caught fire at 2100 hours local time (1630 GMT) Monday as a result of which a few nearby shops suffered damage, it said.

The afternoon daily KAYHAN reported another case of fire at a warehouse of a dyeing factory on the 12th km of Tehran-Karaj Road this morning, resulting in heavy losses, but no injury.

The daily estimated the losses from the fire at rials 30 million.

Italy Refuses Sale of Fighter Helicopters

91AS1285N London KEYHAN in Persian 25 Jul 91 p 3

[Text] Italy opposed the sale of combat helicopters to the Islamic Republic; nevertheless, upon the agreement of the American government, it agreed to place spare parts for "Chinook" and "Bell" helicopters at the disposal of the regime. "Gianni De Michelis," the Italian foreign minister, said: "The 'Augusta Espa' factory is authorized to sell Iran those helicopter spare parts approved by the United States." The Islamic Republic has requested \$150 million in helicopter spare parts from this Italian company.

Early this Christian year, the Islamic Republic requested the "Augusta Espa" helicopter manufacturing factory to sign a \$6 billion contract to sell 62 new combat helicopters to Iran, repair the existing helicopters of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic, and establish a permanent workshop for the repair and upkeep of combat helicopters in Iran. But the above-mentioned factory, which builds helicopters with an American permit, rejected the request of the Islamic Republic.

During the late shah's time, the "Augusta Espa" company had a contract with the royal army to maintain and service the military helicopter battleships. At that time, Iran had the largest fleet of combat helicopter battleships in the Middle East. Recently, the Islamic Republic tried to renew the above-mentioned contract.

The Italian foreign minister said: "We have decided to consider the issue of the sale of the combat helicopter spare parts to Iran as part of the previous contract and, provided the United States agrees, place these spare parts at the disposal of the Iranian government. But we have forbidden the sale of anything other than spare parts and have decided not to sell any arms or military systems to the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Despite its broad propaganda about the "self-sufficiency" of its military industries, due to lack of needed experts and technology, the Islamic Republic is unable to repair and maintain its advanced weapons and is forced to—despite continuing propaganda in this regard—turn to the original manufacturers of these weapons in the West. So far, the combat airplanes and helicopters of the Islamic Republic have been sent secretly, with the signing of various contracts, to European countries for repairs and important service. One of the important establishments that repaired the airplane engines of the Islamic Republic during the Iran-Iraq war was the "Alfa Romeo" factory. Many of these contracts between the Islamic Republic and the U.S. weapons manufacturing agents for repair and upkeep were signed in third countries.

Czechoslovakia Refuses To Sell Tanks

91AS1285O London KEYHAN in Persian
1 Aug 91 pp 1, 5

[Text] An official spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of Czechoslovakia announced on Friday, 26 July (4 Mordad), that his government has denied the issuance of a permit to sell combat tanks to the Islamic Republic.

While the Islamic Republic speaks about purchasing 300 "T-72" model tanks, which are considered among the most advanced of their kind in the world, the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of Czechoslovakia revealed that the "Omnipole" weapons manufacturing company in that country had signed a contract to sell 1,500 "T-54" and "T-55" tanks to the Islamic Republic, the delivery to Tehran was blocked.

The disclosure of this report astonished military experts, because the tanks that the Islamic Republic was trying to purchase have been removed from the war machinery of the communist countries and are mostly dismantled. The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of Czechoslovakia officially denied the reports published in Tehran that the Islamic regime wanted to buy "T-72" tanks from Prague. Informed sources say that most likely Prague's decision to refuse to sell tanks—even though old and incapable of competing with more advanced tanks—was made under pressure from the United States.

The failure to purchase tanks from Czechoslovakia is a great blow to the credibility of the Tehran government, because negotiations between Prague and Damascus for the sale of 300 "T-72" tanks continue and may reach an outcome in a few weeks.

The failure of the Islamic Republic in terms of international purchases in recent weeks has not been limited to the ban on the sale of Czechoslovakian tanks.

In the course of one week, the Islamic Republic has also failed in regards to purchasing civilian airplanes made in England and also purchasing "Airbus" passenger planes which are manufactured by a European consortium composed of the British aeronautical industries agency, the French airlines industries agency, the German airbus unit (Dilmar-Mercedes Benz A.G.) and the Spanish "aeronautic" institute. The failure in these two billion-dollar transactions is due to the opposition of the United States to the transfer of advanced technology to a regime that supports international terrorism.

Based on existing agreements, the United States can prevent the export of machinery and industrial products in which more than a certain percentage of American equipment is used.

Poland Reportedly To Sell Tanks to Country

91AS1285P London KEYHAN in Persian 1 Aug 91 p 12

[Text] Has the Islamic Republic, which is currently facing problems purchasing arms, given the difficult international circumstances, found a new hope? In any case, the MANDESHT newspaper published in Tel Aviv claims in an article that Poland has agreed to sell hundreds of "T-72" advanced tanks to the Islamic Republic.

Political observers in Tehran say that the agreement for this transaction was signed by the Polish minister of foreign affairs, who recently visited Tehran and the officials of the Tehran regime. But the Polish foreign minister has denied the existence of such an agreement.

Poland, which is a country suffering from shortages of foreign currency and needs foreign aid, is in a dilemma. If it engages in such a transaction and "gets rid" of the tanks and decreases armaments for which it has no need, due to the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, by selling them to the

Islamic Republic, it will make some money. The problem, however, is to satisfy the United States, who prevented the sale of a few passenger planes by England to the Islamic Republic, and is not likely to agree to the sale of hundreds of tanks to the Tehran regime.

Enforcement Deputies Named for Fars Province
9IAS1023A Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian
24 Apr 91 p 4

[Text] Shiraz, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI correspondent—The appointment of law enforcement deputies and commanders of various areas in Fars Province was announced.

General Tahmasebi, the law enforcement commander in the Province of Fars, said: With the combining of the security forces, the duties of the forces will be carried out in a united and unified manner. In fact, in the past few days, we have witnessed positive results. He introduced the commanders and deputies of the various regions in Fars Province as follows: Colonel Safa'i, commander of the Shiraz command region; Col. Mohammad Baqer Motrebi, commander of the Lar region; Lieutenant Colonel Mohammad Salari, regional director of inspection; Major Mohammad Karim Mojaddedi, military service administrator of the province; Lt. Col. Khalil Kheradmand, commander of the Fasa region; Lt. Col. Seyyed Jalil Sahhafi, commander of the Firuzabad region; 'Alireza Rostami, commander of the Kazerun region; Maj. 'Ali Shahbazi, commander of the Darab region; Mohammad Mohammadi, commander of the Abadeh region; Mohammad Reza Shokripur, commander of the Sepidan region; Mas'ud Rusta, commander of the Lamard region; Shokrollah Heydari, commander of the Mamasani region; Mehrdad Kherad, supervisor of the deputy office of training plans; Rahim Maqami, special commander of the Guards Corps; Colonel Shebahat, commander of the Jahrom region; Saremizadeh, acting commander of the Fars security forces; Col. Mohammad Hasan Lotfi, deputy of the security forces of the Fars region; Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Tabataba'i, deputy for investigation and the uncovering of crimes and social corruption of the region.

Also, according to our correspondent from Karaj, in ceremonies attended by Gen. 'Ali Yari, the law enforcement commander of the Tehran Province region, the governor and a gathering of Karaj officials and law enforcement personnel, Col. Mohsen Izadju was introduced as the law enforcement commander of the Karaj region. In these ceremonies, the law enforcement commander of the Tehran Province region and the governor of Karaj spoke on the necessity of maintaining security and order.

Also, our correspondent from Bafeq reports: The ceremony to introduce the law enforcement commander of Bafeq was held in the presence of the Yazd law enforcement commander and his companions and with the participation of the officials of departments and institutions, the Friday imams, and the governor in the command headquarters of the security forces of that city. Brigadier General 'Ali Shafi'i, the law enforcement commander of Yazd Province, introduced Mr. Hamid 'Ata'i as the law enforcement commander of the Bafeq region.

Also, according to our correspondent's report, at a meeting of the administrative council of the city of Khomeyn, which was attended by the governor and all the members, Mr. Seyyed 'Ata'ollah Molla'i was introduced as the law

enforcement commander of the Khomeyn region. At the same meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Javad Hatamkhani was appointed the official in charge of the ideological-political office of the law enforcement of Khomeyn.

Our correspondent in Bandar 'Abbas also reports that in ceremonies attended by Brig. Gen. Rahimi, the law enforcement commander of the region, Mr. Mo'ayedi introduced the law enforcement officials of Hormozgan Province as follows:

Hojjat ol-Eslam Piruzi, head of the ideological-political office of the law enforcement of Fars Province; Mozaffar Davudi, commander of logistics and support; Hoseyn Yusofi, coordinating deputy; Karim Keshvari, deputy for intelligence and commander of the special Guards Corps unit; Col. Khalili, commander of inspection; Col. Taheri, deputy commander of transportation; Col. Ebrahimi, deputy security and law enforcement commander; Col. Sadeqian, deputy commander of plans and training; Col. Salehi, financial administrative deputy; Maj. Amir Haji, deputy commander for the uncovering of crimes and social corruption; Col. Motovalli, law enforcement commander of the Bandar 'Abbas region; and Col. Ahmadi, deputy law enforcement commander for this region. According to this report, Mr. Mohammad 'Ali Ghaffari also was introduced as the law enforcement commander of Jasek.

Also, according to our correspondent, in a decree issued by the law enforcement commander of the Khorasan region, Col. 'Abbas Mohyeddin was appointed law enforcement commander of the Neyshapur region and immediately took over his duties.

Also, in connection with the plan for combining the law enforcement forces and in order to introduce the law enforcement commander of the Qom region, yesterday morning, joint reveille ceremonies of the law enforcement forces in that city were held in the presence of the former commanders and personnel of these forces at the central headquarters of the revolution committee of Qom.

According to the CENTRAL NEWS UNIT, the commander and several clerics and officials of departments and institutions as well as the grand families of the martyrs in Qom were also present. After the special reveille, Brig. Gen. 'Ali Yari, the law enforcement commander of the Tehran region, spoke on the importance of combining the forces to establish public security and order. In the continuation of these ceremonies, Col. Farshad, who has been appointed military commander of the region, was introduced to the audience.

This report indicates that at the end of these ceremonies, Brig. Gen. 'Ali Yari and his companions went to the homes of Ayatollah Golpayegani and Ayatollah Meshkini to visit with them.

Taft, Gachsaran, Maragheh Commanders Designated

9IAS1023B Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian
27 Apr 91 p 4

[Text] Taft, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI correspondent—In ceremonies attended by local officials, Major Esma'il Eftekhari was introduced as the law enforcement commander of the Taft region.

In these ceremonies, gifts of appreciation were given to the former commanders of the police, the committee and the gendarmerie by the Friday imam of Taft.

Also, according to our reporter from Gachsaran, in a meeting attended by the governor and the commander of the Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad law enforcement and a group of local officers, Captain Sadeqi was appointed the law enforcement commander of the Gachsaran region.

A report by our correspondent from Maragheh indicates that Colonel Fattahpur was appointed the law enforcement commander of the Maragheh region and Hojjat ol-Eslam Mir 'Ali Asghar Bathha'i the official in charge of the ideological-political office of this force.

Also, in a report published in yesterday's issue about the appointment of law enforcement commanders, the name of the law enforcement of Khomeyn region should be Lieutenant Colonel Mowla'i Nasab.

New Law Enforcement Commanders Appointed
*91AS1023C Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian
 27 Apr 91 p 9*

[Text] News Division—The deputies and directors of the ideological-political organizations and law enforcement regions of the Islamic Republic of Iran were appointed in separate decrees by Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Rahmani, the director of the ideological-political organization of this force, and they immediately took over their duties.

The public relations office of the ideological-political office of the law enforcement of the Islamic Republic of Iran made this statement and announced the names of the deputies and directors of the ideological-political offices of these forces and their replacements as follows:

- Colonel 'Ali Asghar Mahabadi, coordinating deputy;
- Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdolhamid 'Abdolvahed, deputy director of public relations and propaganda;
- Col. Mohammad Hasan Anari, deputy director for finance and logistics;
- Col. Asadollah Pirayehju, deputy director for supervision and evaluation;
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyfollah Qasempur, in charge of the ideological-political office of greater Tehran;
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Davud Ruhani, in charge of the ideological-political office of Eastern Azarbaijan, replacing Hojjat ol-Eslam Salehi;
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Reza Mandalu, in charge of the ideological-political office of the Western Azarbaijan region, replacing Hojjat ol-Eslam Salehi;
- Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Turandaz Kenari, in charge of the ideological-political office of Ilam Province, replacing Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Emadi;
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Badri, in charge of the ideological-political office of Esfahan Province, replacing Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi;
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Al-e Hashem, in charge of the ideological-political office of Bakhtaran Province, replacing Sobhanian;

- Hojjat ol-Eslam Hamidnezhad, in charge of the ideological-political office of Bushehr Province, replacing Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyni;
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmat Jahedi, in charge of the ideological-political office of Khorasan Province, replacing Hojjat ol-Eslam Takavari;
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad 'Ali Soleymani, in charge of the ideological-political office of Khuzestan, replacing Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbari;
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Hatam Mortazavi, in charge of the ideological-political office of Chahar Mahall and Bakhtiari Province, replacing Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani;
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mehdi Heydari, in charge of the ideological-political office of Sistan and Baluchestan Province, replacing Hojjat ol-Eslam Tabataba'i-Fatemi;
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Taqi Nasiri, in charge of the ideological-political office of Semnan Province, replacing Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdavi;
- Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abbas Baqerian, in charge of the ideological-political office of Kerman Province, replacing Hojjat ol-Eslam Tabataba'i;
- Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdolkhaliq Ma'sumi, in charge of the ideological-political office of Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad Province, replacing Hojjat ol-Eslam Zia'i;
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Jabbar Hoseyni, in charge of the ideological-political office of Kurdistan Province;
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Gomnam Baqeri, in charge of the ideological-political office of Gilan Province, replacing Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Poursharei;
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Kazem Khalili, in charge of the ideological-political office of Semnan, replacing Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadpur;
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan 'Ali Zakeri, in charge of the ideological-political office of Central Province, replacing Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi;
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Paknahad, in charge of the ideological-political office of Mazandaran Province, replacing Hojjat ol-Eslam Mirian;
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Firuzi, in charge of the ideological-political office of Hormozgan Province;
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Rabbani, in charge of the ideological-political office of Yazd Province, replacing Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Hojjati-Moqaddam;
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Mohammadi, in charge of the ideological-political office of Zanjan Province, replacing Hojjat ol-Eslam Beyg Mohammadi; and,
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Nabiollah Hoseyninasab, in charge of the ideological-political office of Hamadan Province, replacing Hojjat ol-Eslam Amrollah Maleki.

Tabas Airport Becomes Operational

91AS1021D Tehran ABRAR in Persian 27 Apr 91 p 9

[Text] With the landing of the first Falconette jet aircraft at the newly built Tabas Airport, the experimental utilization of this airport began.

The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY's correspondent reports that at the inauguration ceremonies for this airport, attended also by Chief of the National Aircraft Organization and Deputy Minister of Roads and Transportation Engineer Nuriyan, a talk was given by a deputy at the Aircraft Administration Office in Khorasan. He said: With 2.5 billion rials in allocations, this airport was built on a five-million-square-meter site, and currently Boeing 737s, Falconette jets and F-38s can land and take off here.

He added that the V landing strip and airport parking will go into operation officially in the next two months and that the second phase of airport construction operations, to include the construction of a terminal and auxiliary buildings with 1.5 billion rials in allocations, has begun, and will be completed in the next two years.

Kish Airport, Ports Designated Exit Boundary *91AS1217C Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 2 Jul 91 p 4*

[Text] Political service. In the Sunday afternoon meeting of the Cabinet, Kish Airport and its ports were designated as exit boundaries for the country, which means that the citizens of the Islamic Republic and foreign nationals can enter and exit from this island. Also in this session, entry to and exit from the country at the Mirjaveh border was approved.

According to a report by the presidential public relations office, in this meeting the minister of foreign affairs evaluated the Hajj pilgrimage ceremonies in Mecca positively and expressed hope that:

With the trend in the political relations between the two countries, the Hajj pilgrimage ceremonies will be held even more magnificently in the future.

Also, Mr. Roqani-Zanjani, the director of the Plan and Budget Organization, presented a report to the Cabinet on the Mobarakeh steel mill and steel complex of Esfahan and called the foreign currency trend and the development of the units of these two large industrial complexes worthy of note and appreciation.

He announced: The foreign currency and rial needs of these two complexes will be provided while they are attempting to reach full operation and during the phase of development of various products.

Moreover, in the Sunday meeting of the Cabinet, the bylaws of the Sistan developmental agency, in which the organization and a specific method for the management of the agency with the director of the Plan and Budget Organization has been projected, was ratified by the Cabinet.

Sociocultural Statistics Published

91AS1021B Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 24 Apr 91 p 13

[Text] News Department—The eighth issue of "Iran Through the Mirror of Statistics," a condensation of the National Statistic Yearbook containing social and statistical information concerning the nation's various social,

economic, and cultural aspects, including water, electricity, oil and gas, mines, agriculture, industry, construction, and population, was recently published by the Iran Statistics Center.

A look at some of the statistics presented shows that based on the census for 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987], 41 of Iran's cities have populations of more than 100,000, and only Tehran and Mashhad have more than one million.

In the year 1365 the Ministry of Education and Training had the most staff members, with 667,813. Next are the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education with 211,069, the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs with 94,492, the Ministry of Roads and Transportation with 61,664, and the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade with 54,967.

The spokesman for the Iran Statistics Center reports that the numbers of the nation's physicians, dentists, pharmacists and veterinarians in the years 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] to 1367 were 9,912, 11,162, 13,258 and 13,898, respectively.

In the 1367-1368 [1988] academic year there were 13,046,258 students studying in 422,129 classes in 77,659 schools. The relevant teaching and office staff for the same academic year totaled 621,204, of whom 555,753 were official and 65,451 were contract employees. Of all the above students in the aforementioned academic year, there were 7,433,708 boys and 5,612,650 girls.

In the year 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989], people went to movies a total of 76,857,000 times.

In the year 1367 the Ministry of Power had a total of 8,826,000 subscribers, and in the same year 22,541 of the nation's villages had electricity.

The count decreased for the various kinds of motor vehicles registered in the years 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985] to 1367, with 170,304, 139,408, 73,389, 52,951 and 32,118 units respectively.

In conclusion this spokesman said: In the year 1367 the nation had a total of 1,876,530 automatic telephones.

In the year 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988], 19.15 percent of the nation's imports came from West Germany, 11.24 percent from Japan, and 6.07 percent from Italy, while 30.66 percent of nation's nonpetroleum exports went to West Germany, 13.36 percent to the United Arab Emirates, and 9.99 percent to Italy.

Of the tourists who visited the country, 23,122 came from Pakistan, 4,363 from India, 3,606 from Afghanistan and 3,400 from West Germany.

Tehran Population Growth Reaches Critical Level

91AS1022A Tehran ABRAR in Persian 25 Apr 91 p 5

[Text] There are 8.5 million people living in Tehran. That means that with the rapid and unchecked increase in

Tehran's population, the demand for food, housing, employment, services, energy, and other needs of life has increased and has caused the limited resources to be divided among a larger number of people. The result of this tragedy will be scarcity, an arrested economic and social expansion, high prices, increased public dissatisfaction and social damage, increased poverty and unemployment, reduced per capita productivity and social services, and finally increased environmental problems.

Aware of these bitter realities, are we not forced to accept them as sweet realities? After all, how long must we witness the unchecked increase in Tehran's population?

Tehran's population is increasing day by day, and although comments are heard sometimes here and there about dealing with this social problem, the story remains the same.

This report is a warning to officials to act before it is too late, and if they do not, anything that may be done about this in the future will be like giving medicine to a dead man.

Table of Tehran's Population From 1286 [21 March 1907-20 March 1908] to 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991]

Year	1286	1319	1335	1355	1365	1366	1369
Population	155,000	400,000	3 million	4.5 million	6 million	8 million	8.5 million

About 15 percent of the nation's entire population is concentrated in Tehran. From 1355 [21 March 1976-20 March 1977] to 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987], according to unofficial statistics, about 1.3 million people emigrated to Tehran, and even now, with 39.6 percent of the total, this province leads the nation in accepting emigration. Although emigration is the basic reason for Tehran's population increase, one must not overlook the high rate of natural population growth or the high birth rate. Likewise, the failure to apply effective policies to decentralize away from Tehran, the continued allocation of resources to specific points and the consequent inequitable distribution of resources to various parts of the country and especially the centralization of resources in Tehran have not only failed to slow the growth of Tehran's population, they have even exacerbated it.

Emigration to Tehran is an issue that for some time has never gotten beyond the domain of ordinary and periodic study and planning. To date, many eyes have been closed to this important reality, but the huge waves of emigrants beating against the gates of the city of Tehran are too great for any kind of justifying denial. These people are trying to prove their existence.

The city of Tehran is now a city with several faces and many tales to tell about unplanned population growth, and it is completely crisis-ridden.

Factors Which Contribute to Population Increase in Tehran

The factors that have contributed to the concentration and growth of population in Tehran are in general as follows:

Tehran's Escalating Population Increase

In the year 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988] Tehran had an area of about 865 sq km, which is about five percent of the total area of the country. That year Tehran's population was six million. Now, according to the chief of the Iran Statistics Center, it has reached eight million.

The population density in Tehran is more than 7,000 persons per sq km, while this density nationwide is 30 persons per sq km. It is likewise interesting that we know that 60 percent of all the vehicles in the country and 30 percent of all the nation's industrial units are in Tehran.

According to the table below, Tehran's population has increased from about 155,000 in 1286 [21 March 1907-20 March 1908] to 8.5 million in 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991]. If Tehran's current rapid population increase, caused by uncontrolled emigration and a high birth rate, continues at its current pace, in 30 years and perhaps sooner we will see a Tehran of 16 million people.

- 1. The failure truly and tangibly to alleviate deprivation in the nation's deprived areas.
- 2. The concentration of various kinds of resources in Tehran.
- 3. The shortage of employment in the villages and towns and the resources for making a bigger income in Tehran.
- 4. The tendency to concentrate in Tehran and the failure to apply effective policies to reduce centralization.
- 5. The high birth rate.

For example, concerning centralization in Tehran, in the table below are compared the quantities of some health care resources in Tehran and the nation as a whole:

Type of Resource	Nationally	Tehran	Percent
Health Care and Treatment Center	4,246	521	14
Pharmacy	2,562	637	25
General and Specialist Physicians	11,500	3,416	30
School Site (all levels)	77,659	7,393	10
School Site (preparatory level)	2,547	636	25
Movies	260	81	31
Publications	163	115	71

The above table shows that 15 percent of the nation's population has at its disposal in some cases up to 70 percent of the cultural resources and one-fourth of the nation's health care resources. As long as this situation

continues, there will undoubtedly be effective incentives to concentrate the population in Tehran.

The unbridled expansion of false services and employment such as brokering, peddling, and other things, along with their astronomical incomes in Tehran on the one hand, and on the other hand the drop in the percentage of agricultural workers in the nation's total work force, which dropped for example from 56.3 percent in 1355 [21 March 1976-20 March 1977] to 29 percent in 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987], has also been effective in the flood of emigration to Tehran.

Likewise, the concentration of political, administrative, economic, educational, and other such centers in Tehran and the impracticality of programs to transfer political centers to other provinces have intensified the problem of Tehran's population growth.

Apart from the effective national factors, one must not forget the international emigration, for more control must be exercised in this matter as well.

The factors mentioned continue to accelerate the unrestrained emigration to Tehran and the expansion of this city, and they are in need of serious treatment.

The deputy governor-general of Tehran Province for political affairs recently announced at a press conference: The city of Tehran will soon be spread to the south to Hasnabad, to the east to Ab Ali, Pakdasht, Varamin and Garmsar and to the west to Karaj and Hashtgerd, and to the southwest to Shahriyar.

He also treated the cancerous growth of the city of Tehran as a great problem and called for a regional solution to it.

The Consequences of Excessive Population in Tehran

The unbridled expansion of Tehran and its excessive population are undoubtedly creating a breeding ground for numerous political, social, economic, administrative, psychological, health care, and cultural problems.

It is worth noting that for a long time talk about coordination and proportion between society and resources has had a special place. Tehran's current situation bespeaks disruption of the balance between society and the resources within it. It goes without saying in such a situation that if the population growth is not in balance with the growth of resources, there will be bad effects creating social and economic problems such as the growth of unemployment or under-employment, the drop in per capita income, the increase in the volume of consumption, the inequitable growth in the distribution of income, and the emergence of cultural backwardness and high prices.

Mashallah Towhidi, a senior expert with the Environmental Protection Organization, says concerning the excessive concentration of population in Tehran: A dangerous type of pollution, which is the source of many other types of pollution, is population pollution. Naturally, every region or district of a city, in view of its resources and capabilities, is able to attract and support a limited population, and if that is exceeded, it is considered pollution.

He adds: In the past few years, the flood of emigration of people from rural areas and some of the cities have created an uneven texture in Tehran, in such a way that we are now seeing uncontrollable growth in urban activities, traffic chaos, pollution and destruction of the environment, increased psychological tension and depression, and physical ailments.

In connection with the bad effects of uncontrolled population growth in Tehran, Niku'i, an expert on family health, believes that this problem has caused the loss of society's mental health and that it is also a great threat to the physical health of society.

He also says: The only way to reduce the population in Tehran is to control emigration by providing welfare and other needed resources in the other municipalities.

Ibn Khaldun, the great Islamic sociologist, also wrote concerning excessive population in a region: Excessive population growth leads to the lack of social and economic security and when social corruption is created it leads to the fall of civilization.

Tehran's Population Increase Is a Crisis

Without a doubt the continued centralization and growth of the population in Tehran will mean more malnutrition, homelessness, poor families, slums, higher counts of illness, illiteracy and unemployment, addiction, and social corruption. In general, the crisis of the population explosion in Tehran can be summarized in the following ways:

1 - Environmental crisis: Air pollution in Tehran is already four times greater than the standard limit and noise pollution has increased.

2 - Crisis in education: The increase in the number of children who must be educated on the one hand and the limited classroom space, teachers and other educational resources on the other hand, have led to the stagnation of creativity and talents and as a result the educational system has become unsystematic.

3 - Cultural and economic crisis: The expansion of unemployment, brokering, and the economy of the middleman instead of growth in the culture of labor and production, as well as consumerism in society, the drop in the standard of living, the increase in prices and, consequently, the predominance of demand over supply are among the problems caused by the excessive population in an area, examples of which can be observed first-hand in Tehran.

4 - The crisis of food and mass poverty: Now, with the high cost of living and its disproportion with the incomes of individuals, many people are living below the poverty line and their standard of living has fallen. This, in addition to the reduced efficiency of the work force as one of the factors of production in society, threatens the physical and psychological health of individuals.

5 - The moral crisis: The fading of moral values, the darkening of social relations and the declining desire among the people to solve each other's problems are among the phenomena which can to a great extent be attributed to the burgeoning population in Tehran. The crush of intercity passengers on the Vahed Company's buses, the long lines and many other problems are endangering the liveliness and spiritual purity of the people of Tehran.

6 - The increasing social inequity and slums, the spread of shacks and the creation of shanty towns on the fringes of Tehran which in no way enjoy the benefits of the various resources available in the central areas, are an effective factor in the creation of cultural and social inequities. The housing shortage and traffic malfunctions are also problems which must be addressed.

What Must Be Done?

The above social problems are considered a danger to the social life of the citizens of Tehran. Therefore, the aim must be to alleviate or at least attenuate them. Although solving problems and alleviating urban shortages, with the exception of minor and daily urban problems, need basic change, one must note that fighting emigration and attempting to create artificial obstacles and restrictions to emigration and even forcibly sending back emigrants have never been successful, because emigration from rural areas is not in itself the problem. The source of the problem is found in the flood of rural people to limited areas, cutting them off from production, and their being drawn to the urban service and menial job markets. Therefore, to deal with the problem of the population explosion in Tehran and its attendant problems, in addition to controlling birth and emigration rates, attention must be given to policies to improve social conditions. The following are points that must be considered under such circumstances:

1 - The transfer of commercial and administrative centers, warehouses, terminals, and other related centers to the outskirts of the city of Tehran.

2 - The equitable distribution of resources, facilities, equipment, and installations throughout the country and the ending of Tehran's status as the nation's administrative and economic center.

3 - Increase towns and artificial cities and provide them with the appropriate services to facilitate the proper distribution of the population.

4 - Provide services to the people in their place of residence and decentralize away from Tehran.

5 - Create new centers for growth and expansion in the deprived areas and provide the basic services toward alleviating deprivation.

6 - Focus on controlling the population.

Nationwide Census To Begin 11 Sep

LD2508035491 Tehran IRNA in English 1629 GMT
24 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA—The next nationwide census in Iran is to be held as of September 11. The census

taking will employ 15,000 surveyors and will be completed in 25 days. The collection of data on census, according to the head of the plan and budget organization, Mas'ud Rowghani-Zanjani here today, will be conducted in 224 cities, 522 towns and 70,000 villages and hamlets throughout the 24 provinces of Iran. He said that unlike the last census taking in 1986 which had to omit certain geographical areas of the country due to the wartime conditions, the upcoming census will not omit even the smallest population center anywhere in the Islamic Republic. The official said surveyors put 13 questions to about 11 million households and will collect 330 pieces of data in all. Also a statistically selected ten percent of households will be asked questions related to their educational qualification, birth places and relocations, employment, number of children and other vital information. Surveyors will also collect other categories of information such as number of schools, their standard, number of their classrooms, student population, number of health centers, hospitals and clinics, physicians, dentists, water, power and tapped gas facilities, as well as number and quality of other public utility and public service centers such as post offices, and telephone and telegraph centers. Rowghani-Zanjani said that simultaneous with the census taking and in conjunction with the health and medicare ministry, family planning services will be offered to the people throughout the country and birth control devices would be offered to needy families.

Results of Tribal Census Announced

91AS1021C Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian
25 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] News Department—The Public Relations Management Office of the Iran Statistics Center announced: Based on the results of the national social and economic tribal census in the month of Tir 1366 [22 June-22 July 1987], the Mamasani tribe has four affiliate tribes and 170 Owlad-Bankus (the name of the smallest Mamasani tribal unit).

With 3,356 families and a population of 20,112, the Mamasani tribe makes up 1.9 percent of the families and 1.7 percent of the nation's total migrant tribal population.

In the Mamasani tribe, there were 103 men for every 100 women. In other words, the sexual proportion in this tribe was 103.

Of the Mamasani population, 51.4 percent was under the age of 15, 46.8 percent was between 15 and 64, and 1.8 percent was 65 and older.

In Tir of 1366, of the total population six years of age and older, 46.8 percent were literate. This ratio was 59.2 and 33.8 percent respectively for male and female populations.

In Tir of 1366, of the total male population six years of age and older, 61.3 were employed and of the total female population six years of age and older, 25.1 percent were employed.

Of the total population ten years of age and older in the Mamasani tribe, 55.8 percent of the men and 64.2 percent of the women had been married at least once.

Of the 3,356 families in the Mamasani tribe, 2.6 percent owned motorcycles, 37.8 percent owned radios and 19.9 percent had gas stoves.

The primary fuel for cooking and heating in 97.1 percent of the families was wood and wood coal; in 0.1 percent of the families it was animal fuel, and in 1.3 percent of the families it was kerosene.

In the month of Tir 1366, there were 131,805 head of small livestock (sheep, lambs, goats, and kids) in Mamasani families. Of all families, 18.5 percent had no small livestock, 57.2 percent had fewer than 50 head of small livestock, and 0.3 percent had more than 1,000 head of small livestock.

Based on information from this census, during last year's summer migration and Mamasani departure and return, Mamasani families spent a total of 450 million rials for the use of pastures and to buy feed for livestock. The census also showed that the tribe's livestock produced a total of 2,578 tons of milk, an annual total of 39,631 kg of sheep's wool, and 18,047 kg of goat hair.

In the month of Tir 1366, of the Mamasani families engaged in one or more handicrafts for personal consumption or for sale, 424 families were weaving carpets and rugs, 394 were weaving chadors, and 185 families were weaving wool carpets, pileless carpets, woolen cloths, and saddle-bags.

According to this census, 13.9 percent of the families went on the winter migration in the traditional manner with their livestock, and 14.1 percent went on the summer migration.

Ten-Digit Codes To Replace Birth Certificate Numbers

91AS1285F London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Jul 91 p 4

[Text] "The National Registration Agency will issue individuals born from 120 years ago to the end of 1367 [20 March 1989] a national code, a special 10-digit number. This code cannot be duplicated in at least the next 400 years." The above statements were made to reporters some time ago by 'Ali Akbar Rahman, the deputy minister of interior of the Islamic regime and head of the National Registration Agency. Concerning the use of this 10-digit code, he said: "This code contains general information about the people and can be the common language for technical communications among the organizations of the regime and also can be used by other systems, such as the tax, employment, birth certificate, penal and national medicine systems."

The deputy minister of interior of the Islamic Republic said in his interview: "The birth certificate information will be inventoried in 5 phases: the categorization of 160 million documents, the transfer of this data to computer forms, the transfer of the statistics to small computers, the transfer of data from the small computers to the personal

data main frame computer, and personal data communication to the national computer center."

The above official also announced that those born on 1 Farvardin 1368 [21 March 1989] and after, instead of a birth certificate number, will be given a special birth certificate number, which is the 10-digit code. He added: "The deadline for changing the birth certificate of females born between 1338 and 1345 [21 March 1959-20 March 1967] is Azar [22 November-21 December] of this year. Also, the deadline for males born from 1346 to 1352 [21 March 1967-20 March 1974] is Shahrivar [23 August-22 September] of this year.

Broadcasting Complex Inaugurated in Semnan

LD2508143691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Excerpt] The Islamic Republic of Iran's center for production and broadcasting in Semnan Province was inaugurated in the presence of the head of the Voice and Vision of Iran.

The center, with two radio studios and one television studio, has been constructed on an 8,000-square-meter plot. The Semnan broadcasting center, which is capable of being expanded to up to four radio and two television studios, has been produced, installed, and commissioned by the expert forces of various departments of the Voice and Vision of Iran. The center, equipped with a color television system, cost \$2.5 million.

During the inauguration of the Semnan broadcasting center, Mr. Mohammad Hashemi, head of the Voice and Vision, announced that the center does more than meet Semnan's requirements; it can produce, on average, three hours of radio and one hour of television programming. [passage omitted]

Waters of Law Dam Subsiding

91AS1083E London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Jun 91 p 4

[Text] The Lar dam, which supplies some of Tehran's potable water, now holds 30 million cubic meters less water than it did the same time last year. This was stated by an official of the Mazandaran Regional Water Company who added that there are now about 100 million cubic meters of water in the Lar reservoir, and that if there is no rain, there will be numerous problems related to water shortages in Tehran and Mazandaran. The official said to news correspondents: The Lar reservoir is important mainly because about one-third of its water is used for Tehran's drinking water. The official of the Mazandaran Regional Water Company also announced that about 140 million cubic meters of water are wasted during the cultivation season, and no measures have been taken to prevent it. He also noted that 195 million cubic meters of water are allocated from the Lar reservoir during the cultivation season from the months of Farvardin to Mordad [21 March - 22 July]. Fortunately, thanks to timely rainfall, there has been no particular problem so far.

Takab, Sa'indezh Districts Become Townships
91AS1021A Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 24 Apr 91 p 11

[Text] Takab, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Correspondent—In implementing the new project for [administrative] divisions in the country, the district of Takab became a township in ceremonies attended by the Minister of the Interior Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri.

At these ceremonies, attended by the Friday imam of Urumia, the governor-general of West Azarbayan, area Majles deputies and other local officials, the minister of the interior introduced Mr. Aqdas as the governor of Takab.

According to this report, the minister of the interior attended a Takab public gathering at this city's physical training site. He emphasized the alertness and vigilance of the people against enemy plots, and he praised the bravery of the area's courageous people.

In conclusion, to alleviate deprivation, he gave 200 million rials to this city's governor's office out of Ministry of the Interior credits.

On the other hand, the report from the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI correspondent states that the district office of Sa'indezh was opened and Sa'indezh was made into a township in ceremonies attended by Minister of the Interior Nuri.

According to this report, the minister of the interior introduced Mr. Mohammad Nosrati as governor of this municipality.

Lack of Drinking Water Bring Unrest
91AS1285T London KEYHAN in Persian 25 Jul 91 p 2

[Text] The lack of drinking water during the hot season caused the people of Masjed Soleyman to take part in riots and demonstrations and to clash with the guards and security forces of the regime. Masjed Soleyman has been facing a water shortage and lack of water in some of its areas for a long time. But the Hezbollah officials of the city, have insulted the people when faced with their protests every time and accused them of being agents of foreigners and "counter revolutionaries." Finally, in mid Tir [July] the protests of the people led to marches in the areas of the city without water and then violent demonstrations. The clashes between the guards and the people resulted in injuries among a large number of people on both sides. Since this report was issued, the news of scattered unrest in Masjed Soleyman continues.

Government Week Marked With Special Services
LD2408153991 Tehran IRNA in English 0245 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the Government Week, beginning tomorrow, around 500 billion rials of goods will be sold at special reduced rates to people at 12 showrooms throughout the Tehran Province. The plan aims to smash profiteering.

The showrooms will be set up at various populated areas in Tehran, offering goods such as bags, shoes, clothes, cooking oil, cereals, butter and kitchen dishes.

The showrooms will also be set up in [the] towns of Qom, Eslam Shahr, Karaj, Varamin, and Shahr-e Rey.

The showrooms offer goods directly to [the] people, thereby selling their goods at around 35 percent to 50 percent lower prices. The showrooms will operate till 22 Shahrivar [13 September] [passage omitted]

Another one of the decision taken on the occasion of the Government Week is that hospitals in the Tehran Province will treat people free of charge during that week.

Habibi Cited on Summer, Winter Time Dates

LD2008051591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Mr. Habibi, the first vice president, took part in a news conference this morning in which he explained the most important issues raised in the last two cabinet sessions and answered reporters' questions. [passage omitted]

In connection with establishing a stable framework for time changes in the country, the government's spokesman [Habibi] said: As approved by the Cabinet, from now on, every year at midnight on the first of Farvardin [21 March; Iranian new year], the country's official time will be put forward by one hour; and every year at midnight on the 30th of Shahrivar [21 September; last day of summer], clocks will be put back to their original state.

Blood Stocks Pronounced Disease-Free

LD1608135591 Tehran IRNA in English 1257 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), Aug. 16, IRNA—Deputy Health Minister for Health Care Bijan Sadrizadeh said here Friday that blood stocks and its derivatives in Iran were free of the deadly AIDS virus.

He told IRNA that 33 AIDS patients were identified in Iran since 1988, of whom 24 have died and the rest are under special care.

According to Sadrizadeh, of the 158 tested positive carriers of AIDS in the country, 154 are hemophiliacs. He blamed imported blood as the cause of the infection.

However, at present, added the official, most of [the] country's needed blood stock is procured from healthy domestic resources making use of the most advanced laboratory systems.

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